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BIRTHS.

On the 14th June, at Shamien, Canton, the wife of J. M. BARRETTO-GUTIERREZ, of a son.
At Smith's Villa Magazine Gap, on the 16th June, 1899, the wife of Mr. F. H. HOEHNEKE, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 3d June, 1899, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JOHN GREGORY, of Manchester, England, to MARY ANNE TRUBY, of London.

DEATHS.

At 27, North Szechow Road, Shanghai, on the 7th June, 1899, THOMAS WOOD (late of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Limited), aged 53 years.
At Yokohama, on the 1st June, SELENA CHARLOTTE, widow of the late EDWARD MORRIS, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, aged 57 years.
At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 13th June, 1899, ANDRIANUS MICHEL (late Light-keeper, Bonham Island), aged 62 years.
At Shamien, Canton, on the 19th June, 1899, HENRY JAMES, the beloved son of JAMES and HERMINIA HOLIDAY, aged 1 year and 9 months.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 19th May arrived, per M. M. steamer *Caledonien*, on the 17th June (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 29th May arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 20th June (2 days); and the English mail of the 27th May arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ballaarat*, on the 23rd June (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Great indignation has been caused at Hongkong by the report that Shamchun is to be handed back to the Chinese authorities, a monetary indemnity being accepted in lieu thereof in satisfaction of the bad faith of China in connection with the taking over of the New Territory. Kowloon city is to be retained.

A report is in circulation at Shanghai that Tinghai, on the island of Chusan, is shortly to be opened as a treaty port.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that penny postage now extends to Malta, Jamaica, Mauritius, British North Borneo, and Labuan.

Mr. W. J. Clennell has been appointed acting British Consul at Hangchow and Mr. E. T. C. Werner Vice-Consul at Pagoda.

On the 2nd instant the German Legation guards left Peking, and Baron von Heyking took his departure on the same day.

Mr. W. D. Little has been elected Chairman of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year, and Mr. J. C. Bois Vice-Chairman.

Consul Bedloe, of Canton, is still in Japan under medical treatment, but his condition is much improved, and it is anticipated that he will be able to return to Canton next month.

A Peking despatch of the 14th June published in the Japan papers states that a gunpowder magazine belonging to the barracks of the Jinki army exploded that morning. More than 300 houses in the vicinity were destroyed, and 30 persons killed.

The theory has been advanced in India that the poisons of plague and malaria are mutually antagonistic. The places which have been most severely affected with plague have been non-malarious, while in malarious districts the disease has obtained little hold.

The damage by the recent fire in Foochow Road, Shanghai, is estimated at Tls. 200,000. In all forty-six tenements were destroyed, and the insurance on the contents amounted to Tls. 80,000. The buildings were also insured in practically every case, but the amounts have not yet been published.

A well-known and wealthy comprador, Mr. Wu Jim-pah, has successfully promoted a wool-len industry which is to be established in Tientsin. The machinery has been supplied through the agency of Mr. Deiffenderfer and will be driven solely by Messrs. Westenhouse & Co's electric motors. The factory when erected will draw on Mongolia for its wool supply, which is specially suitable for the manufacture of army blankets and other coarse fabrics.—*N. C. Daily News*.

There appears to be an epidemic of dynamite outrages at Seoul, where bombs have been thrown into several houses, in some cases with fatal results. The cause of the outrages was unknown, but it was pointed out as a curious coincidence that the Ministers into whose houses the bombs have been thrown have the reputation of being pro-Japanese. One despatch says some Japanese may be implicated in the plot, but it is thought the conspirators will prove to be relatives of the political refugees.

Senor Don Spagnolo, the new Spanish Consul, arrived by the M.M. steamer *Caledonien* on Saturday and has taken over the duties of his office from Senor Don José de Navarro, who has been promoted to be Consul-General at New York. Senor Don José intends to leave for his new Consulate by the C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India* on the 28th inst. He is, we regret to learn, in bad health at present, but the voyage will, it is to be hoped, contribute to his recuperation.

Colonel Mainwaring C.M.G., Commanding the Royal Welch Fusiliers has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General at Portsmouth. Colonel and Mrs. Mainwaring leave for home by the *Empress of India* on the 28th June.

A Penang telegram to the *Straits Times* states that the steamer *Amboina* was wrecked on a rock off Bentinck Island, between Mergui and Renong, on the 13th June. All lives on board were saved. Bentinck Island is one of the largest islands of the Mergui Archipelago, situated south of the Gulf of Martaban and off the Eastern coast of the south extremity of Lower Burma. The *Amboina* left Penang on May 30th for Tongkak, Kopah, Maliwan, etc.

On the 6th inst., a disastrous fire occurred at Hankow and was not extinguished until some 160 Chinese houses had been burnt to the ground. Many boats moored near the fire were also destroyed.—*Mercury*.

The following is included in the last published minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council:—Formulated proposals by Sir Charles Ross are read for the purchase outright of the Council's Electric light, rights, privileges, plant, etc., which result in a full discussion. Decided that in view of the importance of this subject, it is desirable to call for an expression of opinion from the Ratepayers, at their forthcoming special meeting, in regard to the general question of disposing of the plant and business of the Electrical Department, and then to ascertain whether it is the wish of a majority of the Ratepayers that such a transaction be effected in the event of the present or other proposals being regarded by the Council as acceptable and likely to be of benefit to the community.

The Ritualistic controversy has broken out at Singapore, where, unlike Hongkong, the Church is still a state department. The *Free Press* says that in a recent "Secret History of the Oxford Movement" a list is given of the members of a secret, or private, society within the church whose object is alleged to be the introduction of specified Romish doctrines and practices into the "Protestant Church of England as by law established." In this list are included the names of two clergymen whose salaries are provided, in whole or in part, by the public funds of the Colony; whose names appear on the Civil List of the Colony; whose names appear on the Colonial Office list; who may draw pensions and do draw exchange compensation and are practically Civil servants in respect of those emoluments, present and prospective. The material points to be noticed by the local government, says our contemporary, are whether the alleged membership of the said secret "Confraternity," if the fact, on the part of these two public servants—there may be more—is compatible with the holding of church appointments which presume the loyal, complete, and unreserved adhesion of such persons to the obligations and tenets of the Protestant Church of England as by law established; whether such inclusion in the membership list is voluntary, or has been the result of misrepresentation; whether, if such membership be admitted and be voluntary, it is expedient or in accordance with public propriety that Colonial funds shall continue to be applied to the support of persons whose incumbency of office may be held, on *prima facie* grounds, to imply systematic and deliberate infidelity to their ordination obligations.

LEKIN FARMS.

(Daily Press, 17th June.)

A correspondent whose letter appears in another column gives some particulars with reference to the Hainan Lekin Farm. The farm appears to be distinct from that of the Kwangtung province proper, but is established on similar lines, and the remarks made in an article that appeared in this column on the 27th May with reference to the Kwangtung Farm are equally applicable to the Hainan institution. On that occasion it was said:—"This is not a question of that oft repeated statement 'that the Chinese Government have the right to impose what taxes they like.' It is a case where the taxation on a certain commodity is farmed out to a party of individuals who may be trading in the commodity themselves and as such is a distinct monopoly, a thing forbidden alike by the French treaty and by something stronger and more lasting than the French or any other treaty, namely, common sense and common justice." In the case of Hainan, the Farmers are, we understand, directly engaged in the trade in kerosine oil, and the Farm gives them what amounts to a strict monopoly, for no private trader can struggle against the advantages they enjoy. The Farmers pay a lump sum of \$7,000 a year to the authorities, and in return enjoy the privilege of taxing their competitors' imports at the rate of twenty cents per case, which, it may be noted, is five cents higher than in Kwangtung proper. Now in 1897 the import of kerosine at Hoihow amounted, according to the Customs returns, to 920,000 gallons, or, say, 92,000 cases, which at 20 cent per case would yield a total duty of \$18,400. The Farmers getting the privilege of imposing this amount of taxation for payment of \$7,000, it follows that they can afford to sell their own oil at rates which will undercut all competitors. Probably they may have to pay a good deal more than \$7,000, for it is unlikely that the native officials would be content to be left out in the cold. But whatever the exact figures that may be shown by the Farm's balance sheet, the one object of the institution is to establish a monopoly and cut out the foreigner. Will the Foreign Governments stand the outrage? The Farm covers not only kerosine, but also cotton and cotton yarn.

Another consideration is suggested by these Lekin Farms, and that a very disagreeable one. In the case of the Kwangtung Farm, if not on the present occasion certainly on a former one, and also in the case of the Hainan Farm, Hongkong Chinese are interested, and in some cases these Hongkong Chinese are British subjects. In their letter to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Hon. Wai Yuk speak of the difficulties British subjects of Chinese race experience in obtaining recognition or protection from British Consuls in China. Having referred to the alleged danger of international complications, the writers ask:—"On the other hand, even though some insignificant international friction might be caused by extending protection to Anglicised Chinese, would that not be outweighed by the many resulting advantages to British prestige and influence?" Further on, returning to the same question, they say:—"By a proper system of organisation and greater encouragement to British subjects of Chinese parentage they can be made an arm of strength to Great Britain commercially, and that proud position which she has

"held in China can yet be maintained despite the rivalry and underhand schemes of her enemies." On the other hand, there are those who aver that the greatest enemies to the extension of foreign trade in China are the Cantonese comprador class, to which a large proportion of the Chinese British subjects belong. A hankering after monopolies seems ingrained in men of this class and they care not what injury may be done to trade interests in general if they can by farming any particular tax in China secure for themselves a monopoly in some branch of trade or substantial advantages over their competitors. They act according to their lights, and there is no occasion to indulge in strong language regarding them, but their natural tendencies cannot be lost sight of when the question of according national recognition to such of them as claim to be British subjects is under consideration. British prestige and influence would not be advantaged by the recognition as British subjects of men who only claim that status when they get into trouble and are more than content to pose as Chinese subjects when they have an opportunity of battenning on trade by renting a revenue farm for the imposition of illegal levies on foreign goods.

THE FOREIGN CUSTOMS AND THE COLLECTION OF LEKIN.

(Daily Press, 23rd June.)

In the Ningpo Consular report for 1898 Mr. G. H. M. PLAYFAIR refers to the transfer of the collection of lekin to the Foreign Customs. As a guarantee for a portion of China's indebtedness it was agreed that the lekin collection at the Yangtze ports and at Ningpo should be placed under the control of the Foreign Customs, and much interest was felt as to the outcome of the experiment, but the transfer has not yet taken place. Mr. PLAYFAIR says:—"The efficient management of this branch of taxation presupposes the acquisition of a vast amount of novel experience on the part of the prospective controllers, all of which has to be assimilated before it can be brought to bear. This acquisition is being proceeded with, and the actual collection of the lekin revenue by the customs has not yet been started. Still, the preparatory work already effected is considerable." Present indications, however, point to the transfer being indefinitely deferred, which would be unfortunate, unless it were in pursuance of a scheme for the transfer of the collectorate over the whole empire at one time instead of taking over a portion of it only, or, what would be still better, the commutation of all lekin and other charges by one single payment, as contemplated by the treaties, and as is the desire of foreign merchants.

Mr. PLAYFAIR anticipates highly beneficial results, not to China alone, but to all European merchants, from the transfer of the lekin collection to the Foreign Customs. "It is true," he says, "that the recognition of lekin will, at the first blush, appear to impose on the foreign trade a burden not justified by treaty except in the case of opium. But it has long been an undeniable fact that lekin, in its incipience a temporary measure, has come to stay. It is equally well known that it is burdensome, not so much by its onerousness as by its lack of definition. Once it has been recognised and regulated the result will be, not merely benefit to the foreign goods whose

"circulation it has so long obstructed, but that the stream of revenue will at last flow in the legitimate direction, and the rightful resources of the Chinese Empire will be enhanced to an almost incredible amount. It has been estimated that of every \$100 collected under the old lekin organisation \$10 reached the state coffers and \$90 stuck on the way, whereas when judiciously managed the result ought to be precisely the converse."

The levy of lekin was most unfortunately and mistakenly recognised by the British Government long ago and having been so long tolerated it will be difficult if not impossible to get rid of it except on a basis of compromise. The China Association in its 1897-98 report said on this subject:—"It is not disguised that the Board of Trade gave away the case in 1868, and that their ruling has weighed on British officials in China ever since; but it is maintained that that ruling is opposed to the intention of the Treaties, and is pregnant with danger to the interests of commerce;" and the hope was expressed that the communications made by the Association to the Foreign Office had not been without effect in modifying the attitude which the Board's initial misinterpretation of the Treaty has led successive Governments to assume. It would be satisfactory to find that that hope had been realised.

It has been recognised by the various bodies representing foreign opinion in China that China's request for a revision of the tariff would not be unreasonable, provided the revision covered the whole question of the levies to be imposed on foreign goods and that the present irregular charges were done away with. The transfer of the lekin collection to the Foreign Customs, while it would constitute a great advance on the present system, would prove less satisfactory than the imposition of one inclusive charge at the port of entry. It is possible, indeed, that the collection of lekin by the Foreign Customs might prove a great disappointment; in fact it could not fail to do so if the Customs officials were required to act merely as the agents of the local authorities in the collection, and no precautions were taken to permanently fix the amount of the charges. To take an example close to our own doors, the Kowloon Customs collect the Chingfei or military defence tax for the Viceroy of Canton on the trade with which they have to deal; the amount of that tax may be varied from time to time, and all the Customs have to do is to collect it and account for the proceeds. If the collection of lekin throughout the whole country were handed over to the Foreign Customs on similar terms, no doubt trade would benefit by the introduction of honesty and intelligence into the service, delays and petty inconveniences would be minimised, but the important question of the exact taxation to which foreign goods were to be subjected would still remain in a state of uncertainty, as the amount would be subject to variation from time to time according to the judgment or caprice of the native authorities. Possibly Sir ROBERT HART would decline to undertake the collection under such conditions, and the delay that has occurred in making the transfer at the Yangtze ports may be due to difficulties in arriving at an arrangement under which the exact amount to be levied would be fixed once for all.

H.M.S. *Waterwitch* left Shanghai on the 15th June for Tientsin, in order to complete the survey of that district.

CONSUL HOSIE ON THE INLAND NAVIGATION RULES.

(Daily Press, 22nd June.)

The criticism to which the inland navigation rules have been from time to time subjected in this column is fully justified by Mr. Hosie's Consular report on the trade of Wuchow in 1898, and we hope that the energetic Consul's able exposure of the defective principles on which the rules are framed may result in a satisfactory amendment. What a satisfactory amendment means, however, is nothing less than the complete reformation of the Chinese Native Customs and their control and administration by an efficient foreign staff. How advantageous this would be both to trade and the revenue may be gathered from Mr. Hosie's report; the only interest on the other side is that of the hungry officials who live by squeezing. In the letter addressed to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD by the Hon. Dr. HO KAI and HON. WAI AYUK the writers deal very ably with the squeeze system as it exists in China. Speaking of official salaries, they mention, *inter alia*, that a Viceroy in the provinces gets as his yearly official salary about £100 and allowances amounting to £900 or £1,200 more, but he has to defray out of these sums all his yamen expenses, including stationery, etc., salaries and food to his secretaries, writers, and A.D.C., his body guards and general retinue, to entertain his innumerable guests, and send his annual tributes to the various high officials in the capital, to say nothing of supporting his high station and his numerous family and relations. As a matter of fact, to meet all his expenditure he would require no less than £10,000 or £15,000 per annum. Other instances having been given, the writers say:—"From these high magnates downwards, the Chinese officials are underpaid in the same proportion, until we get to the lowest grade, the petty mandarins, whose official pay is scarcely better than that of a well-paid Hongkong coolie, and the soldiers and sailors, who receive four to ten shillings a month, subject oftentimes to various unjust deductions and squeezes by their superiors. With such a system in vogue, how can China expect any reform? All the mandarins in power would naturally oppose any measure for reform tending to take away their illegitimate though, under the circumstances, quite necessary gains. How can she expect her officials to refuse bribery and blackmail when proffered to them by friends or foes? How can she expect to have a true return of her revenue, and recover the seven-tenths of it which annually goes into the pockets of her officials? . . . How can she make a satisfactory settlement about her lekin taxes in their various forms, such as lotshui, choli, etc., when a great majority of her officials look to these sources to eke out their income and supplement their meagre salaries?"

How this corrupt system hampers trade and prevents expansion may be gathered from Mr. Hosie's report. For instance, a Fatschau merchant, in order to get the benefit of the transit pass system when sending a consignment of paper or prepared tobacco to the west of Kwangsi, finds it to his interest to send his goods to Hongkong and reimport them as foreign merchandise. To get his goods from Fatschau to Nanning by this roundabout route he pays two full tariff duties and a half as well as freight to Hongkong and back; and all this is cheaper than if he carried them past the

native custom-houses and lekin stations. What is wanted, says Mr. Hosie, if the exports of China are to be developed—and in this lies the development of the foreign buying capacity of the people—is a reasonable tariff on domestic trade. Great expectations were entertained when the announcement was made that the inland waters were to be thrown open to navigation by foreign vessels, and it was thought that at last we were about to witness at least the beginning of the opening up of China. Unfortunately the regulations that have since been framed for the control of the navigation render the concession nugatory. As Mr. Hosie says, "To throw open to steam the inland waters of China hampered by restrictions which practically keep them closed and without a drastic revision of the taxation on domestic trade is absolutely worthless." The Consul gives a very apposite illustration of what the concession really amounts to. It is the same, he says, as through a tradesman in an English town might supply Nos. 1 and 20 situated at the respective ends of a street by a van driven through that street; if, however, he has customers in the intervening houses he must transfer his goods to another van at whichever end of the street he pleases (he has that option) and after supplying Nos. 2 and 19 from that end and that van only he must return the way he entered, and on no account must he visit or pass the last house at the other end with his second van. It is to be hoped that this exposure of the absurdity of the regulation that river steamers plying between two treaty ports may not land or ship cargo at intermediate places may lead to its abrogation. We would commend Mr. Hosie's report to the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association; it deals with politico-commercial questions of the highest importance, and deals with them in a common sense and instructive manner.

THE CUSTOMS QUESTION AT KIAOCHAU AND HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 20th June.)

The Customs and Harbour Regulations for the German territory of Kiaochau, which have just been issued, possess a special interest for Hongkong at the present moment, when our own relations with the Chinese Customs are under consideration. The policy adopted by our German friends is diametrically opposed to that advocated by the anti-Customs party in Hongkong, arrangements having been made by which a Custom-house is to be established at Tsintau, the port of Kiaochau, where the duty upon goods destined for Chinese territory may be paid. The Germans have had the experience of Hongkong before them, and they have apparently come to the conclusion that our policy has been wrong, as indeed the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce itself has, for that body has recommended the establishment of bonded warehouses for opium in order to put a stop to the smuggling of that article. The Germans have gone further and consented to co-operate with the Chinese in the collection of the just dues of the Chinese Government on all dutiable articles, the trade thereupon to be free from all further obstruction. The Germans may be right or may be wrong, but their judgment has been arrived at after due consideration and with the experience of Hongkong to guide them, and we may assume that while they desired to act equitably considerations of self-interest have not been lost sight of. With the exception that goods

for the German territory pay no duty the Customs regulations are much the same as at a Chinese port. Customs officers board vessels on arrival, and the masters are to give in their manifests. Foreign goods and Chinese commodities, unaccompanied by duty-paid certificates, imported from Chinese ports are to pay tariff import duty on exportation from German into Chinese territory; and Chinese goods imported from native ports, accompanied by duty paid certificates, must pay coast trade duty on exportation to the Chinese interior. Chinese goods arriving from the interior pay tariff duty when exported. Produce from the German territory of Kiaochau or goods manufactured therefrom are not liable to export duty.

In an article upon the subject the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* says that no one competent to form an opinion upon the question can doubt that the admission of the Chinese Customs into Tsintau was the simplest and most equitable solution for the colony. "To the merchant it must be a convenience to be able to pass his goods through the Customs in Tsintau itself. Both imports and exports will thus be dealt with at Tsintau instead of at scattered stations on the frontier; there will be no Customs cordon and only one manipulation will be necessary. It will also conduce to the development of the harbour and town of Tsintau to have all the Customs business transacted in the harbour instead of at various frontier stations, which would expose the Chinese merchants to squeezing and delay the growth of the port. Another consideration applying to the future is that traffic by the railway will be facilitated by the Customs business being transacted at Tsintau." Our contemporary, after treating of the regulations in detail and indulging in prognostications of the future prosperity of Kiaochau as a manufacturing centre and commercial emporium, arrives at the conclusion that "the Customs is a very valuable acquisition for the colony." We note also that the *N. C. Daily News*, in recording the fact that the German authorities have come to an arrangement with the Foreign Chinese Customs to undertake the control of trade in the German territory, says:—"And a very wise decision this is, as the experience of the Foreign Customs will be the gain of the German Authorities in facilitating the trade of their recent concession."

The interests of Hongkong and Kiaochau are much the same, both being free ports on the coast of China, and if the Customs are such a good thing for Kiaochau it would follow that they could not be a very bad thing for Hongkong, and, *per contra*, if they are bad for Hongkong they cannot be good for Kiaochau. Our own view is that a middle course would be the more correct. We would not like to see the Chinese Customs in control of the trade by foreign vessels in Hongkong, but we have never been able to understand why obstructions should be placed in the way of the Customs collecting the just dues of the Chinese Government on cargo carried by native craft to Chinese ports since the collection has been placed in the hands of the Foreign Customs. Formerly, when the collection was in the hands of the Native Customs, the system was corrupt and an abomination, but since the advent of the Foreign Customs all abuses have ceased and the service is as honest as the Customs service of any other country. The question is not settled by the shifting of the frontier, for however far back the frontier be removed there will always be Chinese territory the other side of it.

which implies a frontier guard, and it is to the interest of all parties that the frontier relations should be conducted on an amicable and honest basis. Smuggling, besides being despicable, does not pay the colony as a whole, though a small section may profit by it. The Chamber of Commerce, as already remarked, has suggested a *modus vivendi* with regard to opium, and there ought to be little difficulty in arranging for the rest of the trade. As suggested by our German contemporary, a consideration of future application is the bearing of the Customs question on the railway. When we have a railway line from Kowloon to Canton some arrangement with the Customs will be absolutely necessary if serious delay and inconvenience are to be avoided in conducting the traffic.

It may be remembered that Mr. BRENNAN, in his Canton consular report for 1897, pointed out that Hongkong's position necessitated special revenue rules on the West River, and in connection with the question made remarks which gave considerable offence in some circles in Hongkong, but which it may be useful to again quote in the present connection. Having drawn attention to the difference between the conditions prevailing on the Yangtze and the West River inasmuch as on the former the point of departure or arrival is Shanghai, a port under Chinese control, while on the West River the corresponding port is Hongkong, a free British port where the Chinese Government can have no control, Mr. BRENNAN went on to say:—"A steamer leaving Shanghai for a Yangtze port has been loaded under Chinese customs supervision, the custom-house have a correct manifest of all cargo on board, and security has been taken for the payment of all duties. When a steamer from Hongkong bound for West River ports arrives in Chinese waters, the customs have no knowledge what is on board, and great frauds on the revenue are possible before the vessel arrives at the first treaty port, over 100 miles up the river. It is inevitable that the customs regulations should be more stringent than in the case of a steamer plying between two Chinese ports. There is here room for an arrangement equally convenient and advantageous to merchants, steamers, and the Chinese customs—some system by which a vessel clearing from Hongkong for a Chinese port could be loaded under Chinese customs inspection, but in matters of this kind sentiment has greater weight than practical convenience, so probably nothing will be done. If it is conceded that all merchandise arriving in Canton waters from Hongkong must pay a duty, it is not conceding very much more to say that the duty shall be paid before starting." The Germans at Kiaochau appear to have accorded weight to practical convenience, or what according to their view is practical convenience, and that without any sacrifice of sentiment, for the Commissioner of Customs at Kiaochau is a German, his notifications have to be countersigned as approved by the Governor of the colony, the service is conducted under the German flag, and practically the Customs officials become German officials. Hongkong is going to take up a somewhat similar line in respect of opium, and it would, we believe, be a practical convenience if some friendly arrangement could be arrived at in respect of the whole of the trade between the colony and Chinese non-treaty ports, that is to say, the junk trade and the trade by small steamers plying on the inland waters. For vessels arriving from or departing for Chinese treaty ports things would

remain as they are, and there would be no interference whatever with the freedom of the port as regards legitimate trade. The whole business would then be conducted under the British flag, there would be no divided jurisdiction, the Commissioner's action would in all things be subject to the approval of the Governor, and the Chinese flag on the Customs cruisers, which constitutes for many people an eyesore in our harbour, would be got rid of.

ANTI-MISSIONARY DISTURBANCE NEAR FOOCHOW.

ALARMING REPORTS.

19th June.

The congregation which attended St. John's Cathedral on Sunday morning were thrown into a state of consternation by the Bishop of Victoria reading a telegram which he had received from Archdeacon Wolfe, of Foochow, running as follows:—

"Phillips, wife, Miss Sears, reported killed. Seven converts. Report confirmed various sources."

The Rev. H. S. Phillips came out in 1888 and has been working in connection with the Church Missionary Society at Kienyang, in the Fukien province, ever since. Mrs. Phillips, who was a daughter of a clergyman of the name of Hankin, of Mildmay, came out in 1892, and married Mr. Phillips about three years ago. Miss Sears came from Australia last autumn, when she passed through Hongkong.

Mr. Phillips was present at the massacre at Kucheng in August, 1895, when he rescued the survivors. On that occasion eleven persons lost their lives, the victims being all women and children with the exception of the Rev. R. W. Stewart. Indignation meetings were held at Hongkong, Shanghai, Foochow, Amoy, and Swatow. The Hongkong meeting, in addition to expressing its "anger and indignation at the criminal connivance of the Chinese Government and its officers in this and other recent attacks on missionaries and missionary property," expressed its "deep disgust at the apathy and indifference of our own Government and its failure to recognise the gravity of the situation and to take adequate measures for the protection of its subjects and for the punishment of the murderers." It is to be hoped that prompt measures may be taken on the present occasion to bring the perpetrators of this diabolical deed to justice and to bring home to the Chinese Government a sense of its responsibility.

Rumours of impending trouble at Kienyang have been current for some weeks past and great anxiety has been felt, but it was hoped that the trouble had subsided. When details of the sad occurrence are received it will probably be found that it bears a close resemblance to the Kucheng (or Hwasang) tragedy. Kienyang is some little distance further inland than Kucheng.

THE FOREIGNERS SAFE.—NATIVES MISSING

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Foochow, 19th June, 7 p.m.

Information was received at Foochow on Friday that the Church Mission house and dispensary at Kienyang had been destroyed by a mob, the rioters probably being the same as before, and that the Rev. H. S. Phillips, Mrs. Phillips, and Miss Sears were reported to have been killed.

The British Consul induced the Viceroy to take action.

Later, it was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Miss Sears were safe in the Yamen at Kienyang and that the locality was quiet. This is confirmed by Dr. Rigg.

At Yenping five native Christians have been killed or are missing.

To-day (Monday) the Viceroy is sending troops.

The Rev. W. C. White leaves to-night for up-river.

Fairly reliable news has just been received that the foreigners are all safe.

OTHER TELEGRAMS.

Early on Monday it was reported that the supposed massacre had not taken place, but owing to the receipt of contradictory telegrams a state of painful uncertainty continued to prevail, which was not relieved until the evening, when the welcome news of the safety of all the foreigners was confirmed.

The Rev. L. Lloyd received a wire from the Secretary of the Church Mission at Foochow which said:—

"Mr., Mrs. Phillips, and Sears murdered certain."

The telegram also asked Mr. Lloyd to let Miss Sears's people in Australia know. The telegram was handed in at Foochow at 7.50 a.m. Reuter's telegram, which was despatched later, however, contradicted this. The following have been placed at our disposal by Mr. J. Y. V. Vernon, Reuter's agent:—

"Foochow, 18th June.

"It has transpired that the Rev. H. S. Phillips and party sought refuge at the Kienyang Yamen, which not being strong enough to protect them sent them under escort to Kienning, and they were murdered on the way. It is reported that the Yamen, Church, parsonage, and hospital at Kienning have been destroyed. The Consul is active, but floods interfere with communication.

"Foochow 19th June.

"The murders reported near Foochow are contradicted. The Rev. Mr. Phillips and party are all safe."

The Right Rev. the Bishop of Victoria received a telegram on Monday evening to the effect that Mr. Phillips and all the missionaries were safe in the Yamen at Kienyang.

SAFE ARRIVAL OF MR. AND MRS. PHILLIPS AND MISS SEARS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Foochow, 22nd June.

The Rev. H. S. Phillips, Mrs. Phillips, and Miss Sears arrived at Foochow all well at midnight on Wednesday.

DETAILS OF THE OUTBREAK.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Foochow, 23rd June.

Details of the disturbance at Kienyang and Kienyang have now been received. Early on Wednesday, 14th June, a mob of several hundred armed countrymen arrived at Kienning city bringing with them five men as prisoners whom they accused of procuring children for the missionaries, to be killed and portions of their bodies used for medicine. The mob waited on the city elders, who advised them to go to the Yamen. The first Yamen told them to go about their business, but the second Yamen took the prisoners into custody. The mob insisted on the instant decapitation of the prisoners, threatening that if their demand was not complied with they would destroy the Mission property.

On Thursday the mob burnt the Church at Kienning, the dispensary, and the leper station, and murdered a leper Christian, whose body they threw into a well. They then found an old man who had in his possession forty dollars and a knife. This was taken as proof positive of the man's complicity in the abduction and mutilation of girls. The money was really his daughter's dowry and he had the knife for his protection. The mob brutally beat the old man, then carried him to the river side, beat his brains out with a stone, and threw the body into the river, where they continued to pelt it with stones until it finally disappeared. Heavy rain stopped further violence.

The mob went back to the Yamen and again demanded the decapitation of the prisoners. The Mandarin said there was no proof that the men had committed any offence, but he decapitated one man and gave the mob fifty dollars and light refreshments.

The mob then dispersed, some of the rioters going to the hospital, which they looted, but the building itself was not injured. One or two heathens were killed in the riot.

News of the disturbance arrived at Kienyang at daylight on Friday. Mr. Phillips' cook at once prepared to leave for Foochow, and Mr.

Phillips went to the Yamen for consultation and advice. The Mandarin sheltered Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Miss Sears and sealed the house.

Next day (Saturday) all was quiet. An inventory was taken of the contents of Mr. Phillips' house. Mr. Phillips thought the party might es- through Kiangsi and reach Shanghai by the Yangtze, but the Mandarin advised him to stay where he was.

On Saturday night Dr. Rigg started down the river (? from Kienning.)

On Monday Mr. Phillips and party started down the river. The Kienyang Magistrate acted well and rendered valuable assistance.

A fortnight ago placards were posted urging the murder of all foreigners and native Christians and the destruction of the mission property. A new room which had been added to the house was alleged to conceal the entrance to a cave where the bodies of murdered girls were disposed of. The leading gentry were invited to inspect the room, and all the Kienyang civil and military officials made an inspection, were satisfied with what they saw, and published an emphatic denial of the absurd rumours that were in circulation.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 20th June a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. I. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

PAPERS.

In the absence of the Colonial Secretary, the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid various papers on the table. The papers included the report of the Standing Law Committee on the Criminal Procedure Bill (No. 2) and with regard to this he said that when they came to committee on the Bill he would move its adoption.

QUESTION BY THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I will ask the following questions:—1.—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the amount expended by the Public Works Department for repairs and alterations to "Beaconsfield" and of the re-payments made by the owner of the building in respect of the former; also state for the information of the Council under what authority this expenditure has been disbursed?

2.—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the total expenditure payable out of the Colonial Treasury in connection with the preparations for and the occupation of the colony's new territory leased by China to Great Britain per the Convention of 30th June, 1898?

3.—What steps have the Government taken to bring the Police Force up to its full strength as authorised by Ordinance, and are the Government prepared to introduce an Ordinance sanctioning the increase of the force to a strength sufficient for the adequate policing of the colony's new territory?

4.—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the British Government and the Imperial Government of China and the Colonial Government on the subject of the arrangements to be made in accordance with the Convention of 20th June, 1898, for the better protection of the Chinese revenue from loss by the smuggling of opium from Hongkong into China?

THE HON. E. R. BELILIOS AND THE TREATMENT OF PLAGUE PATIENTS.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I propose to ask two or three questions to the effect whether or not there has been any change, any improvement, any progress made in the treatment of plague patients in our hospitals since the epidemic year of 1894.

THE HON. E. R. BELILIOS AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—I beg to ask the questions standing in my name.

The questions were as follows:—

1.—The Secretary of State for the Colonies having only sanctioned the collection of duties on Opium by this Government, do the Government propose to collect Customs duties on other commodities?

2.—The Stations formerly belonging to the Imperial Maritime Customs having been taken over by the Police, will the Government say whether or not the Customs Officials are still in occupation?

3.—Have the Colonial Government undertaken to collect duties temporarily or for an indefinite period?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In the absence of the Colonial Secretary I have to give the answers. The answer to the first question is no. The answer to the second question is, the staff are still in occupation of some stations pending accommodation being provided for them. The answer to the third question is, for an indefinite period.

THE PIERS ORDINANCE, 1899—THREATENED OPPOSITION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled the Piers Ordinance, 1899.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I rise to move the rejection of the first reading of this Bill on the ground that it is a violation of existing rights. There are wharves and piers held under existing Ordinances which have still some five years to run. There are others held under special agreements between the Government and the wharf owners. Firms and others holding licences for wharves and piers under the old scale of fees are entitled to three months' notice before any change can be made in the terms and conditions of the licences already granted. If the proposed Ordinance is passed and brought into force on 1st July, eleven days hence, as clause 20 of the Bill indicates, it would amount to a confiscation of valuable property wholly unauthorised by precedent in imperial legislation.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—The Hon. the Acting Attorney General has pointed out that it is not usual for any honourable member, though it is in his power to do so, to object to the introduction of a Bill. I do not know whether there is an instance here where the first reading of a Bill has been objected to, because it is merely laying the Bill on the table; and then all the objections can be brought forward at the second reading. The first reading of a Bill is merely the introduction of a measure to the Council. But as I say, I am not aware of any reason why an honourable member should not take an unusual course and object to the first reading.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—My remarks, sir, are very brief. I will continue by saying that the rents and fees proposed to be charged under this Ordinance are exorbitant. They are six times more than the highest Crown rent charged upon the most valuable marine lots in the colony. The licencees of wharves and piers do not derive any profit from those wharves and piers; they are there for the public convenience and the public benefit—to facilitate shipping and to promote the trade of the port. They are also essential for the proper landing of the food supply of the colony. There is nothing in this Ordinance which would prevent a new Governor 12 months hence coming to this Council and raising the rent of piers and wharves ten-fold or from taking away the exemption from taxes and the increased tenure which this Ordinance professes to give them, as the Government have continuously in the Council a majority of official members who are required

to vote as directed. ("Hear, hear," from the Hon. C. P. Chater.) I regard this Ordinance as a retrograde movement of no ordinary magnitude. It is just as much a direct tax upon shipping as the recently proposed increase in light dues and the proposition to establish and impose harbour dues which the Secretary of State for the Colonies in his wisdom has refused to sanction within the last few days. This measure, sir, is destined to interfere with the freedom of the port and to retard its progress and impair its prosperity, its progress and prosperity having mainly been secured and maintained by the freedom of the port. In a despatch some 45 years ago one of Your Excellency's predecessors wrote:—"Believing that the satisfactory development of our prosperity is mainly due to the emancipation of all shipping and trade from fiscal vexations and exactions, I trust no custom-house machinery will ever be introduced, either for the collection of tariff or harbour dues or for any purpose, which may check the free ingress and egress of all shipping to and from the port, nor the free transfer of commodities from hand to hand. Hongkong presents another example of the elasticity and potency of unrestricted commerce which has more than counterbalanced the barrenness of the soil, the absence of agricultural and manufacturing industry, the disadvantages of its climate, and every impediment which would clog its progress." The proposed legislation, sir, in my opinion is a violation of existing rights, and it appears to me that it is tantamount to a confiscation of valuable property. I would further call the attention of the Government and the Council to the fact that this important Ordinance did not reach the hands of the unofficial members until Saturday afternoon. I am not aware of any cause for any urgency in this matter, and I would direct the attention of the Government to what the parliamentary committee appointed in 1847, to enquire into Hongkong affairs, said—Clause 42, recommended, that "drafts of all new laws and regulations, unless of an urgent nature, should, as in India, be published for three or six months before they are finally enacted."

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I beg to second that proposition.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Perhaps your Excellency will allow me to say a few words in answer to the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce. I do not know whether he is aware of the fact that I have already arranged to have a consultation with Mr. Francis, Q.C., upon the subject of this Bill. The point was raised originally by the senior unofficial member upon the construction of Ordinances 18 and 19 of 1884; but of course I do not know whether the senior unofficial member intended Mr. Francis to discuss with me also the other question mentioned by the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce. At all events I know Mr. Francis is going to discuss with me the question how this Ordinance will affect the rights of pier owners under Ordinances 18 and 19 of 1884, and I think it is very probable he will discuss with me further questions mentioned by the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce. That conference will take place on Thursday next, that is to say, before the second reading of this Bill will come on. I do not see, sir, any reason for delaying the first reading of this Bill, because, as your Excellency has pointed out, the first reading of a Bill is purely a formal matter. The important question is the second reading of the Bill and how this Bill ought to be dealt with in committee. I need not say that I shall very carefully listen to any argument which may be proposed to me by Mr. Francis upon the subject of this Bill, and as to how far it interferes with existing rights, and as to how far it is proper in itself. If I think in any way that this Bill does unduly interfere with existing rights, I shall have no hesitation whatever in laying that view before Your Excellency. It will be my duty to do so. With these few remarks, I suggest that the Bill ought to go through the first reading. As I said, the first reading is purely a formal matter.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—If I may be allowed to say one word, I think the course which the honourable Attorney-General has

referred to should be followed before any Bill is submitted even for the first reading.

The Bill passed its first reading, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead and the Hon. C. P. Chater voting against.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK—If I should be in order I should like to ask on behalf of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company for permission to be heard by counsel at the second reading.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I have no doubt the Council would be pleased to hear counsel.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The honourable member is quite right in moving at this meeting to preserve his rights.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK—Sir, on behalf of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company I beg to ask Your Excellency's permission that Counsel be heard at the second reading of the Piers Ordinance. The passing of this Ordinance would, the Board of Directors are advised, affect the rights which the Company enjoys by virtue of existing Ordinances which it is proposed to repeal, and that is their reason for wishing to be represented by Counsel at the second reading.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded, and the motion was carried.

Subsequently the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—With regard to the motion made just now by the Honourable J. J. Keswick for Counsel to be heard on behalf of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company I would point out to the honourable gentleman that according to Standing order 52 there ought to be a petition presented to show the reasons why it is desired that counsel should be heard against the Bill. I am sure it would be a very great assistance to honourable members of this Council to have a petition presented setting forth the reasons for the opposition to the Bill.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR—I hope that the honourable member will send in a petition which may be circulated among the members.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK—I will attend to it.

OTHER FIRST READINGS.

The following bills passed their first readings without comment:—

A Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Naturalization of Tsai Yeuk-shan.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalization of Fan Nang, alias Fan Sau, alias Fan Pat Sha, alias Fan Tun Shin.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1887.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Arms Consolidation Ordinance, 1895.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licenses Ordinance, 1894.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter Houses, and Markets Ordinances.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of \$308,672.87 to defray the charges of the year 1898.

THE LAWS RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Criminal Procedure in the Supreme Court.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—With regard to this Bill, I have laid upon the table of the Council the report of the Standing Law Committee on the Criminal Procedure Bill, and in addition to that report there has also been circulated a separate sheet of paper showing in what respects the amendments proposed by the Law Committee affect the Bill as read a second time, also a print of the whole Bill showing how the Bill will read if the amendments proposed by the Law Committee are adopted. I propose under Standing Order 41, if no honourable member has any objection to make, to move the adoption of the report of the Standing Law Committee in order that it may be dealt with in the same way as a Bill reported upon by a committee of the whole Council.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR—Has it been certified by the Chairman.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL—Yes, sir. The Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded, and the motion was carried.

No amendments were made in committee, and on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNED.

The Council adjourned until Tuesday next.

SUPREME COURT.

19th June.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)

RETURNING FROM BANISHMENT.

Chang Tsoi alias Wan Ho was charged with disobeying an order of banishment.

In reply to the charge prisoner said he was not guilty; he was never deported; but he left the matter with his lordship.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. Leopold Schinz, Haug Mak Hoi, Sebastian Francisco Xavier de Rozario Prima, Alex. Rodger, Johannes Wacker, Robert Cooke, A. E. da Silva.

Mr. Carl Marie Teesing had been summoned as a juror, but he did not answer when his name was called, and he was ordered to be summoned to attend at ten o'clock this morning.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) said he had been summoned to a meeting of the Executive Council at eleven o'clock that morning, and he asked his lordship to allow his learned friend Mr. Robinson to prosecute on behalf of the Crown.

Mr. Robinson said a banishment order was issued against Chang Tsoi, for a period of five years from November, 1896. Prisoner was found in the colony some time last month, and it was alleged that he was Chang Tsoi, though he now gave the name of Wan Ho.

Sergeant Collett produced the order of banishment and also a book containing particulars of persons banished with their photographs.

Before witness could conclude his evidence.

Prisoner, interrupting, asked his lordship not to proceed with the case. The photograph was his; he was Chang Tsoi.

His Lordship remarked that if he had pleaded guilty before the Magistrate he would not have been sent to the Supreme Court for trial. He would be sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.

A CASE OF THREE MEN IN A BOAT.

Keung Sang was charged with larceny of seven pieces of clothing and a pair of shoes, value \$8.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. H. E. Krol, F. C. Shuster, C. L. Gorham, P. de Cherie Morris, A. Mackenzie, James Beattie, and Tong Tsung Chai.

Mr. Robinson said that this was a case of three men in a boat—complainant, defendant, and another man. Complainant and another man went away, leaving some clothes and defendant in a boat. They came back a couple of hours later and found defendant gone, and so were the clothes. That took place on the 11th September last year. Last month complainant—Chang Kit—met defendant and gave him in charge. Defendant did not deny having the clothes, but said they had been given to him to pawn so that he might raise money on them.

On complainant being called it was found that he was not present, neither was another witness Tong Sing.

Inspector McNab said he saw Tong Sing on Sunday and warned him to be at Court that day.

Chan Kit is employed as a scavenger at the Central Market, and Chan Tin, the head scavenger, was sent for and asked how it was that Chan Kit had not attended the Court. He said he did not know. Chan Kit went away on Sunday without asking permission and had not returned yet. He did not know whether Chan Kit was in the colony or not.

Under the circumstances a formal verdict of not guilty was returned, and defendant was discharged.

His Lordship gave directions for search to be made for Chan Kit and Tong Sing, who are liable to a fine of \$200 for not appearing.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MORRIS E. MICHAEL.

Morris Edwards Michael was charged with attempting to obtain goods by false pretences. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Defendant having no objection, the jury was the same as in the previous case.

Mr. Robinson said defendant stood charged upon two counts, which were, briefly, as follows:—

The first count was that he attempted to obtain goods by means of false pretence of a compradore order, and alleged the false pretence to be that he pretended that he had authority to draw that order to \$182.50 upon the compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The second count was that he attempted to obtain goods by falsely pretending by means of the same compradore order that such order was a good and valid order for the payment of money, whereas in truth it was not, but only a piece of waste paper. It might be that if they found defendant guilty on one count the jury would have very little trouble in finding him guilty on both. The charges were almost the same only in slightly different form. Defendant went to an Indian shopkeeper and chose an assortment of silk goods and then offered to pay for these goods by a compradore order taken out of a book which would be produced and in favour of Cassim Mahomed and Co. for \$182.50, drawn on the compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Defendant tendered this compradore order, but the shopkeeper refused to accept it in payment. Defendant attempted to get it back, but the shopkeeper insisted upon retaining it. It was on Saturday (May 20th), and the shopkeeper said he would retain it until he had made enquiries on the Monday and if it turned out to be a false and fraudulent document he intended to prosecute. Besides this shopkeeper, whose name was Cassim Mahomed, there was a man present during part of the proceedings named Fukeera, who would be called as a witness to corroborate the facts he had mentioned.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was then repeated, the case for the prosecution concluding at tiffin time.

After tiffin the Acting Attorney-General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock) re-appeared and took up the case.

His Lordship asked defendant what he had to say.

Defendant said he should like to call as a witness an old man who was in the shop at the time he called.

His Lordship pointed out to him that he should have told the Magistrate what witnesses he wished to call. However, the man could be sent for, and while they were waiting defendant had better make his statement.

Defendant then read a statement in which he said he did not use the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank compradore order with intent to defraud. He admitted he had the compradore orders printed, but with no intention to defraud. The sums mentioned on two of the counterfoils in the book had been paid.

Yeung Him Pong, compradore of the Chartered Bank, was called by defendant. He said he remembered defendant calling upon him, but he did not remember the date. Defendant came to his office with a book which appeared to be a compradore order book in connection with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Defendant consulted with him about giving orders to people who supplied him with goods, such orders to be made payable a few days after the orders were given, so that in the meantime he could place the money in the hands of the compradore. He believed defendant, in answer to his question as to where he got the compradore order book, admitted that he made it himself.

In answer to his Lordship, witness said he declined to come to any such arrangement with defendant as the latter said he had come to with the compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Leung Tin Shan, a clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, said he remembered defendant calling at the Bank and asking for the compradore. He told him he was not in—that he had gone to tiffin. Defendant told him he

wanted to arrange with him as to comprodore orders. He saw defendant and the comprodore together a few days afterwards, but he did not hear what was said.

Mahomed Kadirdina, said he was in the shop of Cassim Mahomed and Co when defendant called on the 20th May. He did not see defendant bring any samples. Defendant picked up some samples of plush which were lying in the shop and asked him to show them to him. He then said he would like to take the samples away to show to his friend and he took them away. On his return he bargained for several pieces of silk.

His Lordship having addressed the jury, the latter consulted together for a minute or two, when the foreman announced that the jury were unanimous in finding defendant guilty on both counts.

The Acting Attorney-General said there were no other charges of a similar character against defendant, but under the circumstances he would not proceed with them.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, said he could not conceive how the jury could have come to any decision other than they had—that defendant was guilty of a most artful and dangerous commercial fraud. The preparation of the book which had been produced and the issuing of the documents he should have thought himself would be forgery. He was not at all sure that if defendant had been indicted for forgery what defendant had done in this instance would not have amounted to forgery, but the Crown had taken a lenient view and charged him only with attempting to obtain goods by false pretences. The least sentence he could pass upon defendant was 12 months hard labour.

20th June.

THE MISSING JURYMAN.

On Monday Mr. C. M. Teesing, who had been summoned to attend the Court as a juror, was absent and his Lordship ordered that he should be warned to attend that morning.

Mr. J. W. Jones (Clerk to the Court) informed his Lordship that Mr. Teesing was present and asked to be excused for being absent the previous day. He was a foreigner, had only been in the colony two months, and was ignorant of the law.

Mr. Teesing said he was a Dutchman.

His Lordship said Mr. Teesing had received a summons to appear in court to serve on the jury, and he ought to have been present the previous day at ten o'clock. There were only 30 men called and among these 31 men the whole work of the sessions had to be distributed. By not being present Mr. Teesing threw upon the other 29 men more work than they would otherwise have had to do. If Mr. Teesing had been present the previous day possibly one of the other gentlemen would not have had to serve. Seeing that he enjoyed the hospitality of the colony surely it was worth Mr. Teesing's while to comply with the laws of the colony, and one of those laws was that residents should take a part in the administration of justice. Taking all the circumstances into consideration however, he would not impose any fine, but Mr. Teesing must attend throughout the session and not make an excuse of the kind again.

THE ARMED ROBBERY NEAR LOK CHAN.

Lam Kui was charged with robbery being armed and robbery with violence. He pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. W. B. Soares, E. Boeck, C. H. Thompson, J. J. Sibbet, W. J. Mayson, L. A. Vichy, and E. C. Emmett.

The Acting Attorney General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock) said prisoner in this case was charged upon two different counts, but these two different counts both related to the same set of circumstances and only amounted to two different ways of describing the offence with which prisoner stood charged. In the first count prisoner was charged with being armed with a knife and committing a robbery upon a boatman called Chun Yau in the waters of the colony. In the second count prisoner was charged with having, with certain other persons to the Acting Attorney-General unknown, committed this robbery upon Chun Yau. In the first count the jury would have to find prisoner

guilty of robbery being armed with a knife; in the second count it was not necessary for them to find that he was armed. In the early morning of May 24th a boatman named Chun Yau, a fisherman living at Aberdeen, went out in his boat with his wife. They rowed in the direction of Lok Chan, a village on the south side of Lamma Island. When they had got some way across the channel close to Lok Chan they noticed a boat row out towards them, and some men who occupied the boat shouted out to them in Chinese to turn round the head of their boat. Then prosecutor and his wife stopped rowing and the other boat came alongside and was kept alongside by means of an oar. There were five men in the boat and two of them got on to prosecutor's boat, each of them being armed with a knife. One of them seized prosecutor's wife by the hair of her head, and holding a knife close to her neck said, "Bring out money; if you don't I'll chop you." She was very much afraid and said, "I have no money; my husband and I are out on business." The man then went towards the husband, and struck him on the back with the flat of a knife and also with his fist. They then took away the property described in the information, namely, a jade bangle and a silver girdle. The two men then got into their own boat and rowed away in the direction of Pak Hok, near Lin Chan Wan, a village on the west side of Lamma Island. Prosecutor and his wife went back to Aberdeen and made a report to the police. Sergeant Langley and two Chinese constables accompanied them to Pak Hok, which was on Lamma Island, and then walked to Lin Chan Wan. Here prosecutor and his wife identified prisoner as one of the men who had attacked them, picking him out of 20 men.

Sergeant Langley, in charge of the Police Station at Aberdeen, gave evidence as to the arrest.

Prosecutor's wife said prisoner was the man who attacked her, the other man who had got into their boat attacking her husband.

Prosecutor also gave evidence. He said the same man attacked him who attacked his wife, the other man searching the boat. The stolen articles were worth about \$3.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, being unanimously of opinion that the case was one of mistaken identity.

21st June.

THE ARMED ROBBERY AT LANTAU ISLAND.

Li Tso, Chow Tung, and Li Kwan were charged with robbery being armed, and robbery with violence. They pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. C. M. Teesing, Chan Tseung Fat, Johannes Walker, Sassoon Hoi Michael, G. A. V. Ribeiro, A. A. Alves, and C. H. Thompson.

Mr. F. J. Price was called, but did not answer.

His Lordship said the jury had better choose a foreman from among themselves; Mr. Teesing was a foreigner, and it was desirable to have some one acquainted with British methods as foreman.

The Acting Attorney General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock) said the three prisoners in this case were charged upon two different counts, but those two different counts arose out of the same set of circumstances. The first count charged prisoners that on the 22nd May, being armed with offensive weapons, namely, knives and a pistol, they made an assault upon a man called Wan Li Heung, and robbed him of a hat, a pair of shoes, and a tin box containing cartridges. The second count made no allusion to prisoners being armed, but merely charged them with assault and robbery. Prosecutor would tell the jury that he lived at Man Fong village, in the district of Mui Ho, on Lantau Island, and that early on the morning of May 22nd his house was robbed. He went to bed the previous evening with his door open, as the night was hot. There was only one room in the house. Prosecutor was awakened by a piece of lighted paper being thrown into the house, and he saw three men standing inside the door of the house. Prosecutor had a revolver in a box, and he was getting up to get it when the men made a rush at him. One of them seized him by the queue, and another struck him on the back with a sword. While one of the men was holding him

by the queue the others ransacked the house and took out of one box some clothing, \$8 in cash, and a knife with a long handle. They also opened another box containing 25 cartridges and a revolver. Prosecutor was alone in the house before prisoners came in. When the men went out they fastened the door from the outside. Prosecutor, however, scrambled out through the roof, and he saw a number of men going down towards the beach and get into a boat. Subsequently first prisoner was arrested with some of the property in his possession and some of the remainder was found in a house in which second and third prisoners resided.

Evidence having been given, the jury found prisoners guilty.

His Lordship deferred sentence until the following day.

22nd June.

THE ARMED ROBBERY AT LANTAU—EXEMPLARY SENTENCES.

His Lordship, in passing sentence in the Lantau robbery case, said:—On the evening of the 21st May last, a gang of armed robbers, who were making Yung Shu Wan village in Lamma Island their headquarters, sailed from thence in two boats to pillage the inhabitants of Wan Tong village in Lantau. They arrived at night and divided into sections and attacked various houses and people, robbing them and retreating with their plunder before daylight, returning in their boats to Lamma Island. They trusted to their numbers, their arms, and the terror of their sudden appearances with torches in the dead of the night to overawe resistance. That they had no scruples in using firearms is shown by the fact that two persons were wounded with bullets, and some others were struck with the flat or back of swords. Yesterday, after a long and patient trial, the jury unanimously found that you three men formed part of the robber gang, and the subject of the investigation yesterday was the robbery at the house of Wan Loi Hung. Some of his property was found in the possession of the first prisoner, and some more at a house frequented by the second and third prisoners, who were seen to start in the boats from Lamma Island with the rest of the robbers that night. Now I think that when a gang of armed robbers set out on a common expedition to rob villagers at a particular village and having effected their common object return together and share the plunder, each member of the gang must be taken to be legally responsible for the illegal violence and wrongful acts of the other members committed in pursuance of the common aim and intention of the expedition. There are three more informations filed against you, for other robberies committed by your gang at that village that night, before you returned to Lamma, but I understand the Attorney-General does not deem it necessary to proceed with those other cases as you have been found guilty of the robbery at the house of Wan Loi Hung. I shall, therefore, only sentence you for the crime of which you have been convicted, though other stolen property was found on the premises at Lamma which you frequented when on that island. The sentence is that you be severally imprisoned with hard labour for seven years, and that each of you receive twenty strokes with a birch, within the first week of your imprisonment. I am very glad the police have been able in this case to prevent some, at least, of the robbers from escaping scot free, and I think they have shown skill and energy in bringing you to justice.

A DISHONEST TAILOR.

Tsui Tai Kin was charged with larceny. He pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. E. da Silva, W. J. Mayson, Tong Tsung Choi, A. Mackenzie, L. A. Vichy, F. E. Shuster, and A. Rodger.

The Acting Attorney-General explained that prisoner was charged with the larceny of six pieces of clothing, of the value of \$10, the property of Cheung Tai Fung. Prosecutor gave prisoner several articles of clothing to repair and alter. They were delivered at prisoner's shop on the 30th December. On the following day the shop was found to be closed and prisoner was missing. He was not seen again until the

21st May, when he was arrested in Fi Yuen street by a police officer.

Evidence having been given his Lordship addressed the jury, who found prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced the man to nine months' hard labour.

ARMED ROBBERY AT YAUMATI.

Fan Cheong, Pun Tit, and Tsang Man were charged with robbery being armed. They pleaded not guilty.

The Acting Attorney-General said the three prisoners were charged with armed robbery at Yaumati on the 30th of May, and with stealing in the course of that robbery certain properties belonging to two men named Fong Kan and Tan Mun. This robbery took place on the first floor of a house at Yaumati. That first floor was divided into two rooms, and the two men whose names were mentioned in the information and another man named Chan Mun occupied the same room on the first floor of this house. About eight or nine o'clock on the evening of the 30th May prisoners entered the room in question, one being armed with a revolver and another with a sword, and assaulted prosecutors and stole \$32 and certain properties, the total value being \$76. There were four men charged with the offence before the Magistrate, but one of them named Yip Ying To committed suicide in Victoria Goal by hanging himself.—The Acting Attorney-General proceeded to state how the robbery had been traced to prisoners.

Evidence having been given, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship deferred sentence.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

BATTLING WITH THE PLAGUE.

On Saturday morning a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held for the purpose of recommending His Excellency the Governor to appoint six students of the College of Medicine for Chinese for house to house visitation work; and to consider whether any further steps are necessary with regard to the outbreak of bubonic plague in the colony.

The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. J. W. Duggan (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT stated the business of the meeting.

Dr. CLARK said that with regard to the further steps necessary for dealing with the plague, as far as statistics went the plague was undoubtedly less rather than more, although even under those circumstances they had had 233 cases during the last 16 days; but the special feature with regard to the epidemic was that the cases were much more scattered over the city. The cases had hitherto been almost confined to No. 9 Health District, but during this month there had been a considerable outbreak in Nos. 5 and 6 and all the districts to the west of No. 4 district and including No. 4 district. Under these circumstances he thought it would be as well if the Board declared the whole city west of the eastern boundary of No. 4 district infected with plague. It was not his intention to suggest that they undertake the wholesale cleansing of these houses as they had done in No. 9 Health District. Most of the houses had been recently lime-washed and cleansed. They were as clean as they could hope to get them under the circumstances, and it was only to give the Board powers to visit and to seek for plague patients that he thought it would be well to declare the sedistricts infected. It was only when these districts were declared infected that by-laws 23, 24, and 25 could be enforced, and these contained several extra powers which it was necessary to have. He begged to move that Districts Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 be declared infected with bubonic plague, No. 9 district having been already declared infected.

The VICE PRESIDENT seconded and the motion was carried.

The SECRETARY read the following minute by Dr. Clark—I have the honour to report that

in a private prosecution for assault entered by Fung Chi Ming, one of the students appointed to carry on house visiting in No. 9 Health District, and in which I was called by direction of the Police Magistrate as a witness, it was held by the Magistrate that the assault was justifiable as the student was trespassing on private property. The Magistrate held these students had not been duly appointed as officers of the Board as required by Sec. 9 of the Public Health Ordinance. I suggest that the President be asked to call a special meeting of the Board, and that the Board do recommend his H.E. the Governor to appoint the following students as Inspectors of Nuisances until further notice, as the Magistrate held that under the said Sec. 9 only the Sanitary Superintendent, Sanitary Surveyors, and Inspectors of Nuisances are officers of the Board, the remainder being servants, and by-law 25, made under Sec. 13 of Ord. 15 of 1894, requires that the house to house visiting should be conducted by officers of the Board. Names of the students—Lee Yiu Sza, Fung Chi Ming, Chan Fai Kwong, Tee Han Kee, Lau Lai, Kwong Ngai Leung.

Dr. ATKINSON said that on the 9th May at an interview he had with H.E. the Governor he recommended the appointment of these six students as officers of the Board for the purpose of visiting houses in the infected district No. 9. He made that recommendation as President of the Board, and was acting upon the standing order of the 12th July, 1888, which said "That in accordance with the provisions of section 12, the conduct of the executive business of the Board be carried on by the President in the intervals between its meetings until further notice." He might say that this standing order had been frequently acted on before, but the decision of the Magistrate was evidently such that the students must be appointed by the Board—that the appointment by the President under that standing order was not sufficient. He thought it would be better to appoint them officers of the Sanitary Board under by-law 25, rather than appoint them as Inspectors of Nuisances. He proposed that Dr. Thomson and these six students be appointed officers of the Board under section 25.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. J. W. Duggan (Secretary).

PUBLIC LATRINES.

The Board were called upon by the Government to recommend sites for four public latrines which it is proposed to erect.

The PRESIDENT remarked that ever since 1844 the Sanitary Board had urged upon the Government the necessity for additional public latrines, and it was satisfactory to know that work was to be proceeded with at once. He recommended the appointment of a sub-committee composed of the Medical Officer of Health and the Director of Public Works to consider the question of sites.

Mr. E. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried.

INSPECTION LAIRS.

In reply to the Board's request for the erection of inspection lairs for cattle at an early date, the following letter was sent from the Colonial Secretary's Office:—"With reference to your letter No 18 of the 6th February last, I am directed to inform you that the necessity of providing inspection lairs for the reception of cattle when lauded has not been lost sight of, but that until the Government is in a better position to provide the necessary expenditure this work cannot be undertaken."

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

Returns from the British Consulate at Tainan, Amoy, show that from May 9th to May 15th (inclusive) 111 cases of plague were reported in the prefecture, the deaths numbering 86 and the recoveries 33; from May 16th to May 22, cases 66, deaths 55, recoveries 61; from May 23rd to May 29, cases 73, deaths 56, recoveries 27; from Jan. 7th to May 29, cases

2,016, deaths 1,520, recoveries 388. Out of a population of 47,991 in Tainan City (12,390 houses) there were 1,727 cases from Jan. 7th to May 20th and 1326 deaths. In Amoy, with a population of 4,371 and 1,106 houses, there were 14 cases and eight deaths. In Kwantung, with a population of 383 and 118 houses, there were 105 cases and 80 deaths. In Shensi, with a population of 3,297 and 733 houses, there were five deaths. These figures refer to Japanese and natives, and do not include the foreign residents of Tainan, among whom there have so far been no cases of plague.

THE PLAGUE AT AMOY.

The following letter, dated June 1st, was read from the British Consul at Amoy:—"In consequence of rumours in circulation as to the existence of plague in Amoy City, I have made enquiries of the medical officers of the port whether any authentic cases have come to their knowledge.

Dr. MacDougall, medical adviser to the Consulate, informs me that one case of plague has occurred on the island of Kulangsu, the patient (a Portuguese boy) having died of the malady. It is probable that the disease is smouldering in the Chinese city, but he has not seen any cases, nor has it assumed any epidemic form. He continues, therefore, to sign bills of health as before that there is no epidemic disease at the port. Special precautions are being adopted by Dr. O'Neill, who examines the coolie emigrants; he now insists on each male passenger stripping himself to the waist that he may the better ascertain his condition. Should it come to my knowledge that the plague has become epidemic, I shall not fail to inform you."

In a subsequent letter dated June 8th the British Consul at Amoy said:—"I have the honour to inform you that some cases of bubonic plague having come to his notice, Dr. MacDougall, medical adviser to this consulate, intends for the present only to grant modified certificates for bills of health. Two undoubted cases of plague have come under the cognisance of European medical men here, and another case is said to have occurred which was not seen by them."

Minute by Dr. Clark:—"Only one case of plague has to my knowledge been imported into this colony from Amoy—that was on April 18th last. The Amoy coolies mostly go to Penang. Our men come from Swatow or from nearer parts of the Kwangtung province."

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended June 10th show a death rate of 39.5, against 40.8 for the previous week and 39.2 for the corresponding week last year.

The mortality returns for Macao for the week ended May 28th show 64 deaths, and for the succeeding week 67 deaths, including two from plague.

LINEWASHING IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

Mr. OSBORNE said that on the 22nd June 2,636 tenements out of 9,947—about one-third—in the western district had been cleansed. He thought they would be very much obliged to the representatives of the press if they would take note of this, so that those who might not have seen the advertisement could be warned.

DRAFT SANITARY REGULATIONS.

The Board then proceeded to consider, with the aid of Dr. Jordan, the amended draft sanitary regulations under the Merchant Shipping Act.

THE MURDER AT UN LOONG.

AN ARREST.

Our readers will remember that shortly after the arrival of the British troops at Pingtang in April last the widow of a Chinaman who had undertaken to put up the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor came into the camp and complained that her husband had been murdered at Un Loong on April 17th. She stated that when her husband arrived in the village to post the proclamation he was set upon by a crowd of persons and severely beaten. He was then placed against a wall and fired at, his diabolical tormentors, however, with a view to prolonging his agony, taking care not to shoot him in any vital part. He was then put

in a crate in which the Chinese carry pigs, thrown into the river, and drowned, the crate and the body being subsequently recovered by the troops.

Soon afterwards the man's widow and his son laid an information at the Central Police Station, and enquiries were instituted which resulted in the issuing of a warrant for the arrest of Tang Ching Sze.

The police came across their man unexpectedly. On Thursday afternoon 15th June a telephone message was sent from the Registrar-General's office to the Central Police Station stating that the man who was wanted for the murder of Tang Cheung was there, having come about same land. Chief Detective Inspector Hanson and a Chinese detective at once went to the Registrar-General's Office and found Tang Ching Sze there. The warrant was produced by Mr. Hanson and read over to the man, who was forthwith taken into custody.

Prisoner was brought up at the Magistracy on Saturday, and after formal evidence of arrest had been given he was remanded until Thursday. Prisoner is a man getting on in years and has not a particularly ferocious aspect.

ANOTHER ARREST.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday another Chinaman—Cheong Kie—was charged with being concerned in the murder of Tang Cheung, the man who was posting H. E. the Governor's proclamation at Un Loong on the 17th April. He denied the charge. Formal evidence of arrest having been given by a Chinese constable prisoner was remanded.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At the Magistracy on Thursday two Chinamen—Tang Tsing Sz and Cheung Ting—were charged with the murder of Tung Cheong, who was posting the proclamation of H. E. the Governor last April when he was seized and brutally murdered, together with two other men.

Captain-Superintendent May conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

Ng Fung Cheong said—I live at Un Loong and am a student. I am one of the gentry of Un Loong village and am a Chinese B.A. I have been living there for sixty years. I know first defendant, but do not remember having seen second defendant. I remember the sixth day of the third moon (April 15th). I went to the meeting house at Un Loong between seven and eight in the evening and I saw Pang A Mo bring in a Hakka. Pang A Mo belongs to Fung Sai, near Taipo. The Hakka was handed over to the meeting house. I do not remember what elders were present. The Hakka man was locked up in a room. I did not go to the meeting house on the next day, but on the day after I went there at four p.m. I heard that Tung Cheong had been arrested and I went to look at him. Tung Cheong deals in oysters and belongs to A Cheung. Tung Cheong is not alive now. When I went to the meeting house Tung Cheong asked me to rescue him, and I asked, "How am I to rescue you." Tung Cheong said, "Tell your younger brother to write to Tung Chak Hing to bail me out." Tung Chak Hing is an elder of A Cheung. I then went to find my younger brother, who wrote a letter to Tung Chak Hing, who did not come. That night at eight o'clock I went with Chow Yeung to free Tung Cheong, who was still in the meeting house. When we got there we found he had three chains on his hands and feet. Chow Yeung loosed two chains, but he could not find the key for the third chain. I told him to go away and he replied, "I dare not return to A Cheung, and I said, "If you dare not go to A Cheung go to Hongkong." He replied "I have no money." Then I said, "If you have no money I will give you one dollar passage." I gave him a dollar and told Chow Yeung to take him to another place, broke the lock, and let him go free. We took him as far as the gate leading to Un Loong Market and then we met first defendant. I spoke to him and said I had freed Tung Cheong. First defendant said, "Why did you free him so soon. He is an A Cheung man, and ought to have been handed over to the A Cheung elders." I said, "better let him go here." First defendant then said, "If he is to be let go let me let him go," and I told Chau Yeung to hand him over and I went home.

Kwan Pui Chi said—I live at Un Loong and am a seller of dried meat. I have lived at Un Loong four generations. I know first defendant, who has a house at A Cheung. He is one of the elders. I also know second defendant. He is a Samchun man and is a coolie in the Po On gambling house at Un Loong. I have known him since the third moon of this year. I did not know him before the eighth day of the third moon. I remember the eighth day of the third moon. At seven p.m. on that day I went to the Un Loong meeting house. I had heard that five men had been arrested and I went to see them. I saw five men in five pig baskets. The men were chained up. I knew two of these men. One was Tung Cheong and the other Chan Kwai Shui Tai. Tung Cheong was an A Cheung man. I met him in Hongkong last year. Among those in the meeting house were defendants and some others. They were talking about letting go two of the men and killing the other three. I heard first defendant say Tung Cheong was communicating with the foreigners and selling his country. Ng Ki Heung said Chun Kwai Shui Tai was not a good man. I saw two of the men let out from the pig baskets and shut up in a room. I did not hear any reason given why these two men were let out. Lum Ching Tse said to Tam Pok Tan. "These three deserve to die for communicating with foreigners and selling their country." Then Lum Ching Tse said to Lum Pak Chau, "Let us wait until midnight when the tide is high." He also said a boat must be got ready for eight o'clock—that a boat was to be engaged and it was to be said that three pigs were wanted to be taken aboard. The boat was to be in a creek some distance from the meeting house. I and Lum Pak Han went down to the river and engaged the boat and then defendants and others went to the gambling house to consult. I also went there. First defendant said Tung Cheong had been communicating with the foreigners and selling his country. Lum Pak Tan said, "For these three men to die is not wrong." Then first defendant said, "Wait till 12 o'clock when the tide is high and do for them." Lum Pak Tan then went and called six Pan Tin men, who went to the meeting house, with defendants and carried out the three men who were in the baskets to the side of the creek. The gambling house is just opposite the meeting house. When the three men were taken away I followed with the crowd. Tung Cheong wept and cried out, "Mercy, save life." He called out in this way when he was being carried to the boat and the boatmen refused to take the three men. First defendant then said, "Here then," and gave a revolver to second defendant, who fired two shots at Tung Cheong but did not kill him. First defendant then said, "give me the revolver; let me shoot." First defendant then fired two shots at Tung Cheong and killed him. Then Lum Pak Tau and Tai Tak Tuk pushed the other two men who were in baskets into the water. Then Lum Pak Tan fired two shots out of a revolver at Chun Kwai Shui Tai, who was one of the men in the baskets. After the murder 20 cents was given to each of the men at the creek side as a reward. The case was adjourned.

GODOWNS ON FIRE AT WEST POINT.

17th June.

At about a quarter to five yesterday morning a district watchman discovered that the godowns Nos. 24 and 25, Praya West, were on fire. He at once informed the police, and the Central Police Station being communicated with, Captain Superintendent May and a number of firemen made for the scene of the outbreak with a quantity of hose. They found that the fire had got a good hold in front and their endeavours were consequently directed chiefly to preventing its spreading to the back and to the adjoining buildings. The godowns, which belong to the Land Investment Company, and are known as the Wo On Godowns, are two storeys in height and are large buildings. They were literally packed from floor to ceiling with cotton, bags of flour, sugar, and matting. The probability is that the fire had been smouldering all night, as when the firemen arrived they found the floor between the first and second

storeys ablaze, and soon afterwards the roof became ignited. Only part of the roof, however, was destroyed. In the meantime huge quantities of water were poured on to the burning material, but it seemed to have but little effect, and a large amount of the stuff stored in the building was destroyed. The work of clearing out the flour, etc., which had not caught was commenced forthwith, and several junks which had been drawn alongside the wharf were filled. The firemen were hard at work all yesterday, and they will no doubt have to stand by to-day and to-morrow. The loss will be heavy. The building is insured with the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Limited, and the South British Insurance Co. for which Messrs. S. J. David and Co. are the agents has a line of over \$100,000 on the contents.

19th June.

The fire at the Wo On Godowns at West Point was still smouldering on Saturday and Sunday, but a fair estimate of the total damage can now be formed, and it is believed that it will reach \$150,000. The building belongs, as we have previously stated, to the Land Investment Company and is insured with the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited, but the damage done to it is not extensive. Many of those who had goods stored in the godowns will, however, lose heavily, between forty and fifty of them not having taken the precaution to insure. The following are the names of those covered by insurance, with the goods they had stored in the godowns, the names of the Insurance Companies, and the amounts:—

Yeung Fat, Bonham Strand West, sugar, Chun On Insurance Company, \$50,000. Ling Chau, Wing Lok Street, sugar, Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., \$30,000. Kwong Wing On, Bonham Strand, flour, Messrs. S. J. David & Co., \$50,000. Kwong Yan Hing, Wing Lok Street, flour, Messrs. S. J. David & Co., \$30,000. Chit Wo, 15, Queen Street, flour, Chuen On, \$30,000. It seems that the last time anyone inspected the godowns was at eight o'clock on Thursday night, when all was found to be right. So far as is known no one went in in the meantime, and how the fire commenced is a mystery.

JUNKS ATTACKED AT MIRS BAY.

THE OCCUPANTS CARRIED AWAY.

A RANSOM DEMANDED.

We have already had abundant evidence that our new territory across the harbour is inhabited by a good many lawless spirits, though the activity of the police and the severe punishment which is being inflicted upon offenders are likely to ere long have the effect of keeping them within bounds. The Acting Chief Justice on Thursday sentenced the armed robbers from Lantau to a flogging and seven years' imprisonment.

While every effort is being made to clear out undesirable characters from British territory the same cannot be said of across the border, with the result that those who have broken the laws in British territory are able to elude pursuit by taking refuge in the Chinese portion of the Peninsula.

A remarkable instance of this was reported to the police on Thursday, when news arrived that 30 armed men had attacked a couple of junks in Mirs Bay and carried about \$200 and the occupants across the line, subsequently sending one of the men to Taipohu to seek for ransom. This man came across the police and told them his story, and word was sent to Hongkong. The affair is one in which vigorous action is necessary.

H.M.S. *Phonix* returned from Weihaiwei yesterday, says the *Shanghai Mercury* of the 12th June, bringing Messrs. Wood, Beeston, and Burrows (H.B.M.'s Police Magistrate) who took part in the cricket and tennis matches which Shanghai played with the British fleet. The Navy won practically everything, including the hearts of their guests, whom they treated right royally. The rest of the defeated column arrived by the *Tungchow*.

ARMED ROBBERY AT WONGKOKSUI.

At the Magistracy on Saturday four men were charged with entering a house at Wongkoksui, between Shauiwan and Quarry Bay, at two o'clock on the morning of the 9th inst. and stealing clothing to the value of \$150. They were armed with knives and revolvers and threatened to kill the inmates if they interfered with them. On Friday night eight men suspected of having been concerned in the robbery were arrested by Inspector Cuthbert. Two were identified by the occupants of the house, and two were found to have some of the clothing in their possession. The other four were allowed to go. Defendants were committed for trial.

ANOTHER JUNK ROBBERY NEAR A CHEW ISLAND.

Another junk robbery has taken place near A Chew Island, and one the depredators was brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith at the Magistracy on Saturday morning. After the occurrence the master of the junk made his way to Tai-ho (Lantau Island), which is some 15 miles from the scene of the robbery, and reported the matter to Inspector McHardie. The Inspector forthwith set out with him in the police pinnace for A Chew Island, and on arriving there they saw a man running over the hills. He was captured, and identified by complainant as one of his assailants.

His Worship (to defendant)—Did you go on board this junk at A Chew Island?

Defendant—Yes, sir, my master told me to go there to get fish.

His Worship—You went on board and took the fish, did you?

Defendant—Yes.

His Worship—Did you pay for it?

Defendant—My master told me to go on board and take the fish and he would pay for it.

Complainant said he was the master of the licensed junk number 2,198. On the 15th inst. he was at A Chew Island. Two women were with him. He had three piculs and 18 cabbies of salt fish with him. He was at anchor at the time on account of the wind. At about 5 p.m. a big sampan containing four men came alongside the junk. Two of them, including defendant, came on board and removed his fish, which he valued at \$32, on to the sampan. They had no weapons with them. He went and asked the men's master for payment the next morning, but he refused to give him anything, and then he reported the matter to the police.

His Worship—Did you allow these men to take this fish away thinking you would be paid for it?

Complainant—They took the fish away without saying a word.

His Worship—Did you try to stop them?

Complainant—I did not.

Defendant said his master offered payment to complainant, who refused the money, saying that he wanted the fish back. Defendant added, "I am not guilty, it was my master."

His Worship sentenced defendant to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

AN AMERICAN BLUE-JACKET FOUND DEAD.

At about five o'clock on the morning of the 16th June a European constable was on duty in Staveley street when he saw the naked body of a white man lying just off the footpath. There were two wounds on the forehead and two streams of congealed blood for some distance from the body. The body was conveyed to the mortuary and enquiries were at once instituted. It was discovered that the body was that of an American blue-jacket from the *Concord* named Macpherson, aged about 25. An examination of the spot where it was found led to the conclusion that the deceased had been in one of the houses in the neighbourhood and when in a state of frenzy had run out and fallen, striking his forehead against the knobs of a sewer cover. The police were unable, however, to find out in which house he had been during the evening.

THE CHARGES AGAINST A BANK SHROFF.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday Yeung Cheung Un, alias Yeung Kwan, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing a bank book the property of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and was committed for trial on the charge of making false entries in a bank pass book with intent to defraud.

THE PLAGUE.

The epidemic this time last year was rapidly diminishing, but this year it unfortunately seems more persistent. The following table gives the numbers of cases and deaths in the corresponding weeks of the two years:—

1899	Cases.	Deaths.	1898	Cases.	Deaths.
April 1	7	7	April 2	45	40
" 8	16	16	" 9	106	87
" 15	10	4	" 16	97	92
" 22	31	31	" 23	127	109
" 29	28	34	" 30	119	114
May 6	64	55	May 7	164	133
" 13	89	69	" 14	179	157
" 20	87	70	" 21	112	107
" 27	143	134	" 28	63	61
June 3	92	97	June 4	68	63
" 10	97	91	" 11	22	20
" 17	109	117	" 18	15	12

The returns for the present week are Sunday, 30 cases 27 deaths; Monday, 2 cases 21 deaths; Tuesday, 21 cases 21 deaths; Wednesday, 22 cases 21 deaths; Thursday, 13 cases 14 deaths; Friday, 23 cases 18 deaths.

THE HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

LONG RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.—17TH JUNE.

	700.	800.	H'cap.	Total.
Corpl. Hills, R.E. *	45	45	—	90
Mr. A. H. Skelton *	48	42	—	90
Mr. W. Toller *	44	40	4	88
Mr. A. Watson *	42	43	—	85
Sapper Clarke, R.E.	42	41	—	83
C.S.M. Wallace, R.E.	43	39	—	82
Corpl. Jenner, R.E.	39	31	12	82
Ar. Sgt. Blair, A.O.D.	45	36	—	81

Corp. Hills, R.E., Winner of the Cup.

* Winner of Spoons.

16 Entries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE HAINAN LEKIN FARM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—With reference to the proclamation issued by the head Lekin Office of the Kwangtung Province which appeared in your issue of the 26th May last, please allow me space in your columns to ventilate the grievance to which merchants at this port (Hoihow) are subjected in regard to trade in kerosine oil. For many years past the Lekin Collectorate has been farmed to five guilds formed of the principal native merchants of five districts, called the Kwan, Nam, Chew, Ko, and Fokien, representing Canton, Hainan, Chinchew, Koehow, and Fokien respectively. These merchants have all along imported kerosine oil to supply the market, charging themselves three (3) cents per case to raise funds to pay \$7.50 per annum to the Taotai for the privilege of collecting taxes on kerosine, cotton, and cotton yarn, the balance of the taxes thus collected, after paying the Taotai, reverting to their own pockets. The public was thus overcharged three cents only per case for their oil and did not grudge it. The contract between the Taotai and the farmers was for six years, renewable for a similar term, the last term ending with the third moon of the present year.

Since February, 1897, Europeans have entered the field as importers of the oil. Upon the first sales being effected the monopolists tried to enforce lekin on native purchasers of the oil thus imported, but the French Consul at once made representations to the Taotai and the impudent pretensions of the monopolists were put a stop to. After that no more ob-

stacles were placed in the way of European importers, whether in their sales for local consumption or in their forwarding the oil to the interior markets, nor even when they sent it to the mainland on the other side of the Strait under transit pass; the native purchasers were no longer bullied, and the whole business was carried on smoothly, to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

On the first day of the fourth moon of this year the Lekin Collectorate passed into the hands of a new syndicate, at the head of which it is generally known that there is British subject under an assumed name who holds five of the ten shares. This is scandalous, and the British Consul should leave no stone unturned in order to bring him to task. No notice of the change of the Collectorate has been given to the public, which was taken by surprise when the underlings of the new farmers went round to take stock of goods already imported, on which no more lekin was to be imposed. It was only then that people knew of the change, and they were astonished to find that thenceforward they would have to pay the exorbitant tax of twenty cents lekin on each case of kerosine oil! You may well imagine how great a hardship is thus imposed on the consumers.

Herewith enclosed I beg to forward to you a copy of the contract entered into between the Taotai and the new syndicate and a copy of the notice posted up at the office of the Collectorate, at the door of which are hung up the usual two boards giving official character to the ill-gal business. In these documents you will observe that in many places Europeans are aimed at.

The natives are now threatened that should they purchase kerosine from Europeans and convey it under transit pass to the interior they will have to pay lekin all the same at the terminus up to which the oil is covered by the pass, or if the oil or any portion of it be disposed of on the way the same lekin will have to be paid, under penalty of imprisonment and confiscation of their goods. In this way the transit pass becomes worse than useless notwithstanding the extra half-duty of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem* paid to the Customs; it would be safer for the natives to submit to the lekin at the collectors' shop before starting for the interior than to do so on the spot where it becomes liable and where the collectors are probably a set of cruel squeezers who, under threat of confiscation and imprisonment, would no doubt exact much heavier payments.

Another evil consequence of the new lekin is the following: The importation of kerosine for the second quarter (April-June) last year was 167,360 gallons, or 16,736 cases, or 5,578 cases per month. During the 30 days of the fourth moon this year, the first month of the operation of the new farmers (10th May to 8th June) the importation was—

May 11,	per <i>Triumph</i> ,	200 cases
" 14,	" <i>Hating</i> ,	700 "
" 17,	" <i>Hongkong</i> ,	150 "
" 20,	" <i>Hailan</i> ,	700 "
" 24,	" <i>Hanoi</i> ,	200 "
" 29,	" <i>Hoihao</i> ,	150 "
June 1,	" <i>Hongkong</i> ,	100 "

Total 2,200 cases

showing a falling off of 3,378 cases, on which the steamers running on this line lost in freight, at the rate of twelve cents per case, \$45.36, and the Customs are prejudiced in their revenue to the extent of \$391.84 duty. I may just as well mention that these losses will be the smallest, for the month under review comes within the slackest quarter of the year (vide *Customs Trade Report*). In 1898 the import was for Jan.-March quarter 23,369 cases; Apr.-June, 16,736; July-Sept., 24,225; Oct.-Dec., 30,259 cases.

The question suggests itself as to how the usual demand has been supplied, since the importation has been reduced to less than half the usual quantity? The explanation is quite simple: the Customs do not keep cruisers around the Island to prevent clandestine trade at the numerous spots where junks can safely load and discharge their merchandise, much less have the Government any stations at those places. By importing the oil by junks and landing it at those spots the article pays less freight, no Customs duty, nor the obnoxious lekin. Of course trade by junks is more risky than by steamers, but the enormous difference in the

ultimate cost of the oil laid down at the consumer's door constitutes a most tempting inducement to the traders. Very little oil is burnt in Hoihow, where the population is small; it is in the interior districts that most of the oil is consumed. When the lekin was only three cents per case the burden was little felt, but when suddenly the people are called upon to pay seventeen cents extra per case it becomes unbearable.

I hope that as the Consuls at Canton have taken the matter in hand as regards that port, this Island being under the jurisdiction of the Viceroy of the two Kwang, whatever may be the result obtained there may be extended also to this port.—Yours, &c.,

E. P. S.

Hoihow, 12th June, 1899.

The following is a rough translation of the documents enclosed by our correspondent:—

PETITION for permission to farm the lekin taxes on kerosine oil, cotton, and cotton yarn in Hoihow to defray the expenses of forts and guns.

The humble petition of San Tak-tong, Fan Yeung-tong, Yu Tsung-tong, and Ku Tsung-Ming-tong, Sheweth:—

Your petitioners beg to be allowed to farm the lekin taxes. The late farmers of lekin taxes levied on kerosine oil, cotton, and cotton yarn—Man Shai-loong, King Cheung-chau, Lam Shing-tung, and Lau Wing-hing—have resigned, on the ground that foreigners not only refused to pay any lekin taxes on kerosine oil, etc., imported by them, but also prevented the collection of any lekin tax from the purchasers of their goods, and they (the foreigners) also accused the farmers of squeezing the purchasers, who, being protected by them, paid no lekin taxes, so that the late farmers have lost much of their capital. As the late farmers, who paid a sum of \$7,500 per annum to the Government, have lost their capital, your petitioners beg to be allowed to pay to the Government a smaller rent, and that they may be allowed to levy lekin taxes under modified regulations, which have been framed in accordance with the treaties made between China and foreign Powers.

Your petitioners beg to enclose a copy of the new regulations, which they beg that you will communicate to the Commissioner of Customs and the different Consuls, with a request that they will inform the foreign merchants of the same.

If any foreign merchant should interfere with the collection of lekin taxes from the purchasers of their goods your petitioners beg that they may be allowed to ask the protection of the Government.

Your petitioners beg that you will issue a notification informing the public of the arrangement and will give instructions to the Sub-Prefects and local Magistrates to enforce compliance with the new regulations.

Your petitioners ask that they may be allowed to pay the rent of the farm quarterly, like the late farmers, and that the period of the grant may be six years, during which no one shall be allowed to interfere with the interests of your petitioners, and that if your petitioners should lose their capital they may be allowed to tender their resignation; also that upon the expiration of the said term, the rent having been duly paid, your petitioners may be granted the farm for a further period.

REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

As the collection of lekin taxes to defray the expenses of forts and guns is very important the revenue can hardly be diminished, but as the late farmers have lost their capital, the new farmers may as a special favour be allowed a deduction of \$500 from the amount paid annually to the Government by the late farmers. The new farmers will therefore have to pay \$7,000 annually to the Government. The collection is to be granted to them for a term of six years, as requested, during which no one is to be allowed to interfere with their interests. They will not be allowed to collect taxes in excess of the scale and they are to pay the full amount agreed upon and are forbidden to tender

their resignation without reasonable cause. They must commence their duties at once, and the Sub-Prefects and local Magistrates have all been instructed to issue notifications for the information of the public concerning the said lekin taxes. They are to be allowed to effect the arrest of smugglers of the articles covered by the farm and to confiscate the goods. These lekin taxes are customarily levied, so that it is unnecessary to notify the Consuls. Of the ten regulations framed by the new farmers the 8th, 9th, and 10th require some modification, but the remainder are approved.

REGULATIONS.

1.—Kerosine, cotton, and cotton yarn must be reported to the Lekin Office on importation, and after being examined, taxed, and marked they will be allowed to proceed to their destination.

2.—Any person failing to pay the lekin tax will be prosecuted.

3.—Though Hoihow is the principal seaport of Hainan cunning merchants may secretly import their goods through other channels, to prevent which the farmers are authorised to employ cruisers.

4.—Merchants who purchase kerosine oil, etc., from foreign firms are also required to pay lekin according to the scale.

5.—Merchants who secretly join foreigners for the purpose of smuggling will be prosecuted and severely dealt with.

6.—Goods subject to lekin, when sold, must be reported to the Lekin Office before they are forwarded to their destination.

7.—Merchants purchasing kerosine, cotton, and cotton yarn from foreign firms must proceed to the Lekin Office to pay the taxes and have the goods marked, failing which they will be prosecuted.

8.—Should kerosine, cotton, or cotton yarn be discovered in any place unmarked and not having paid the tax the owners of the goods are to be arrested and prosecuted. Goods imported by foreign firms and having paid transit duty at the Custom House are exempted from this provision.

9.—Goods imported by foreign firms and sent to the interior under transit pass must be reported to the Lekin Office and their destination declared, so that the tax can be collected from the purchasers.

10.—Vessels bringing kerosine, cotton, or cotton yarn to Kiangchow may be searched by the farmers, and the owners of goods who endeavour to evade payment of the lekin tax will be prosecuted and severely dealt with.

THE REMOVAL OF THE CUSTOM STATIONS AND ITS EFFECTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—An abler pen than mine perhaps would put the question better. Mortals, however, we are told in the proverb, rush in where angels fear to tread, and I would like to ask "Old China Hand," in the event of the annexation of the whole of Sunon District and the Customs stations being removed from their present or projected positions, how much better would it be for the legitimate commerce of Hongkong? It seems to me fairly reasonable to suppose that the stations would be moved to the next advantageous position a few miles further on. If Hongkong held the mountain passes on one side the probability is that the "minions" of the Customs would be stationed near by to intercept trade and collect dues, as they have a perfect and indubitable right to do. China has, I suppose, still authority to collect revenue, in common with every other nation. How, then, would Hongkong be benefited? To the ordinary man in the street you would be just where you were, only more so. With regard to annexing fresh territory, is it quite established that Hongkong has sufficient resources to properly administer territory already "leased"? Out of about 200 square miles it is an open question whether more than two thirds of it is not sterile. With the usual apologies.—I remain, &c., &c.,

OPEN DOOR.

Hongkong, 19th June, 1899.

THE OPIUM FARM, THE NEW TERRITORY, AND THE CUSTOMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR Sir,—If the information re farming of opium is true, then the most colossal job ever perpetrated in the history of Hongkong has been committed. This state secret bogey has done so much harm in the past that it is high time it was tackled. The Opium Farmer has never done so well since the establishment of the Farm, for it is a well known fact that the Customs guards have been withdrawn for months and Kowloon frontier has been wide open. Competition is good for trade and an excellent chance has been lost of trying another method of raising the revenue on opium. Personally I am not in favour of farming Government taxes, believing as I do that the Government shirk their duty in not undertaking the collection of this tax themselves. A rival farmer in the New Territory, however, would have been the best thing from a public point of view.

By the way, I have been told on good authority that the establishment in Queen's Road, the Kowloon Customs Head Office, still collects taxes on opium bound between points in British territory. It would be very interesting to know if these illegal taxes will figure as Customs revenue, and also how much longer is the Government going to tolerate this so called head office. In no other place in the world would such proceedings be allowed for a moment.

While on this subject I would draw attention to the fact that so little attention is paid by the Hongkong Government to the concern mentioned above that they are still in possession of Laichikok, which I understand is a sort of Customs arsenal and storehouse for explosives. Why is this permitted?—I remain, yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 19th June, 1899.

THE Kerosine OIL MONOPOLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—I have read with much interest your able article re the Chinese and their love for monopolies. Granting that monopolies in any shape or form are nothing but conspiracies to rob the many in the interests of the few, still, it does seem passing strange that one should cry out so loudly against the Chinese when our whole commercial system is based upon a gigantic system of monopolies. Not to mention the recent corner in wheat, which was the cause of the Milan riots, and of untold suffering to thousands, take the kerosine oil industry itself. The Standard Oil Trust is probably the largest single business monopoly in the world, the value of its included interests being estimated at £29,600,000. Its influence is felt all over the world. The germ of this huge monopoly was a small petroleum refinery near Cleveland bought by one Rockefeller, a book-keeper in a store. The concern grew, and was incorporated as the "Standard Oil Company." It is charged with having secured special legislation by judicious expenditure in various states. After a time the Company controlled every avenue of transportation, it was able to shut off every competitor from either receiving supplies or shipping its products. New companies, nominally distinct, but under the control of the same men, were incorporated in other states of the Union. In 1882, the Companies were consolidated into the Standard Oil Trust, and the separate concerns were merged into one gigantic business controlled by nine men, owning a majority of the stock, having a monopoly of nearly all the oil lands in America, controlling legislative votes, forming a solid alliance with the railway and shipping interests, and determining to a gallon how much oil shall be produced and refined, and to a fraction of a cent what shall be its price. Such is the brief history of the kerosine oil industry, and there are many others like it, as for example the anthracite coal land of Pennsylvania, occupying an area of 270,000 acres, the rich owners of

which, who are popularly known as "coal barons," agree to fix absolutely the wholesale price of coal, always securing an immense rise just before the winter sets in, so that there is no such thing as free trade and open competition in this industry. Further, combinations in the United States have been made by the Western millers, the New York icemen, Boston fish dealers, manufacturers of sewer pipes, copper miners, makers of lamps, potters, glass, hoop-iron, shot, rivets, candy, starch, sugar, preserved fruits, glucose, chairs, vapour, stoves, lime, rubber, screws, chains, harvesting machinery, pins, salt, hardware, type, brass tubing, silk, and wire. In these trades freedom of production and sale has been partially or wholly destroyed, and in some instances heavy penalties imposed for violations of rules which in Republican America have instituted a system which we would only expect to find under the Caliphs of Bagdad; though for that matter we need go no further than Hongkong and Canton to find examples of the same kind of thing in a lesser degree.

No doubt these huge combinations or monopolies will eventually bring about their own downfall, as already laws are being enacted for their curtailment and suppression, and some say that the natural outcome of it will be socialism and that all industries which have reached the Ring and Trust stage are ripe for socialisation, as what is done in the interests of a few shareholders in the way of combination can be equally turned to account in the interest of the community at large.

But when compared to these gigantic conspiracies, John Chinaman's puny attempt at the same game appears ludicrous indeed.—I am, sir, your truly.

ANTI-MONOPOLY.

Canton, 12th June, 1899.

THE RAUB AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the annual report:—

The Directors have the pleasure to present herewith the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ending the 31st March, 1899, the Singapore accounts incorporated therein being closed on the 28th February. The figures now presented show the steady progress and satisfactory results that have been realised by the work of the past year.

A visit has lately been paid to Raub and Singapore by myself as Chairman of the Company, and the directors are thoroughly satisfied with the efficient manner in which the mines have been and still are being worked.

Very good work has been done in connection with the electrical installation; but some unavoidable delay has occurred in connection with the supply of iron pipes for the water-power—owing to strikes, etc., in England—and which will hamper the completion of this work till their final arrival on the ground. A further delay has also occurred on account of the amount of sickness amongst the native labour, consequent on the clearing of the dense jungle, etc., in connection with the necessary preliminary work.

Several offers have been made by subsidiary companies to develop on specified terms portions of the Company's concession, and the directors have accepted the offer of the Queensland Raub Syndicate to lease a portion of the concession on terms which, after very careful consideration, have been approved of and recommended by the Singapore directors.

The annual report of the manager, Mr. Bibby, has been received, and is now issued to the shareholders, and special attention is invited to this, as giving the fullest and latest details of all the work done during the year.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, all the Directors—Messrs. De Burgh Perse, Robert Philp, George Frederick Scott, and James Forsyth, and the Auditor, Mr. T. A. Bond—retire, but are eligible for re-election, and offer themselves accordingly.

It will devolve upon the meeting to fix the auditor's remuneration.

(Signed) DE BURGH PERSE,
Chairman.

Brisbane, 29th April, 1899.

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1899. (Incorporating Singapore balance to 28th February, 1899.) 31st March, 1899.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
To capital—200,000 shares at	£1 each	200,000	0	0
Less uncalled capital on 150,000 shares, at 6s. 2d. per share		38,750	0	0
		161,250	0	0
To reserve		4,873	10	10
To sundry creditors		956	5	3
To unpaid dividends:—				
Brisbane		163	12	0
Singapore		155	13	6
To balance of liability under contract for electric plant		6,050	0	0
To profit and loss account		11,118	6	11
		£184,567	8	6

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
By mining property (nominal)		181,684	17	0
By machinery (including value of new stampers, etc., in transit to mines)		10,628	1	2
By plant		737	19	6
By tools, implements, and stores		1,491	8	0
By railway		2,537	9	0
By buildings		1,274	2	0
By quartz hoppers		109	7	0
By timber		181	16	3
By fuel		1,015	17	6
By furniture—Raub and Singapore		117	12	0
By electric plant and installation (including plant in course of erection) and £1,500 suspense paid by London agents		16,692	7	0
		34,845	19	5
By estimated value of 40th crushing, viz., 2,944 ozs. from 2,464 tons of stone		10,598	8	0
By balance to credit of dividend accounts—				
Brisbane		£163	12	0
Singapore		155	13	6
		319	5	6
By cash balance—				
London		2,739	2	4
Singapore—Fixed deposit		3,383	12	6
By current accounts—Raub, Singapore, and Brisbane		996	3	3
		7,118	18	1
		£184,567	8	6

PROFIT AND LOSS.		£	s.	d.
31st March, 1899.				
To directors' and auditor's fees, salaries, and charges—Brisbane		561	5	5
To wages and expenses at Raub, including cost of Singapore office, and directors' fees		18,735	4	2
To tools, implements, and stores		609	13	2
To fuel		2,447	12	10
To timber		634	5	0
To depreciation—				
Machinery and plant		549	7	2
Buildings		136	6	0
Railway and quartz hoppers		277	8	0
Furniture (Raub and Singapore)		22	4	0
		985	5	2
To dividends—				
No. 6 dividend of 1s. per share		10,000	0	0
No. 7 dividend of 1s. per share		10,000	0	0
		20,000	0	0
To balance		13,118	6	11
		£55,091	10	8

31st March, 1899.		£	s.	d.
By balance		5,096	17	4
By gold account:—				
Net proceeds of 13,758 ozs. of gold from 14,259½ tons of stone (including value of 40th crushing), after payment of Royalty, cost of transit, insurance, etc.		49,994	15	4
		£55,091	12	8

A Chinese flower boy was charged with stabbing another boy with a knife. According to the story of complainant the parties were having some words when defendant took out a knife and stabbed complainant in the back and in the abdomen. Complainant had to be taken to the hospital in consequence. Defendant said complainant struck him several times; they were separated and then complainant rushed at him again and fell against a knife which he had in his hand. His Worship, in sentencing defendant to four months with hard labour, said he had had a narrow escape of being charged with inflicting serious injury upon complainant.

THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD.

On the 13th June an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the offices, No. 4, Kiukiang Road, Shanghai, "to receive and consider a Statement of the Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Company as made up to the 31st day of March, 1899, including a Statement of the financial position of the Company as on the 30th of September, 1898." Mr. E. A. Probst, Chairman, presided.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, I will ask your permission to take the report which has been in your hands for some days as read. With regard to the accounts, your Directors feel greatly disappointed at having to come before you with such a bad result as a net loss of Tls. 79,319.35. The report deals fully with the various items of the accounts and I need not take up your time by again going over the same ground. Over and above the investigation made by Mr. Leake of the accounts to the 30th of September last, your Directors have employed him on the accounts to the 31st of March with a view of introducing a more efficient system of book-keeping and one consistent with the working of a Cotton Mill; that is, and none other, the work which Mr. Leake has been asked to do. We have to record with regret the death of one of our auditors Mr. T. Wood; the vacancy thus caused has to be filled, and according to the Articles of Association the appointment until the next annual general meeting lies with the Directors, and we propose to appoint Mr. A. R. Leake. I wish to say a word or two as to the future. The loss of Tls. 79,000 odd is a nasty one, but for all that I cannot see any cause for panic; we are now working on a paying basis, we are able to sell our yarn by forward contract and I trust that by the 30th of September our loss may be considerably reduced, if not wiped out. Of course with the provision we shall have to make for depreciation there can be no question of a dividend this year, but when it is considered that our loss only means about Tls. 9½ per share and our shares are quoted as low as Tls. 65, or Tls. 35 below par, I think they are worth holding on to. This being an extraordinary general meeting merely to consider the accounts as presented for the six months to the 31st of March, it would not be in order for me put forward a resolution asking you to pass the accounts; that according to the Articles of Association can only be done once a year at the annual general meeting when the accounts for the year are presented to you. But I shall be pleased to answer any questions concerning the accounts any shareholders may wish to put.

Some discussion ensued, turning mainly on the arrangements made at the time the management was transferred from the American Trading Company, but it did not lead up to anything.

Mr. H. Morris said he thought the shareholders would not like to take advantage of the offer of the Directors to forego their fees, and therefore he begged to propose that the Directors be voted their fees as usual. Would anybody second the resolution?

Mr. R. E. Toeg seconded, and the resolution was agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman said the Directors would take the vote with great appreciation as a mark of confidence in the Board, which he was sure would not be misplaced.

The proceedings then concluded.

The following is the report presented to the meeting:—

In compliance with their Circular of 18th April, the Directors now beg to submit the audited Accounts for the six months ending the 31st March, 1899, and regret to say that the Profit and Loss Account shows a net loss of Tls. 79,319.35.

As stated in the aforementioned Circular certain omissions in the Accounts to the 30th September, 1898, had been discovered, and in consequence the Directors thought it wise to engage the services of Mr. A. R. Leake, Chartered Accountant, to thoroughly examine the books for the six months ending the 30th September, 1898.

The object of the Directors in engaging Mr. Leake was to obtain a re-examination of the Accounts to satisfy themselves that the full extent of the discrepancies had been discovered, or not, and this they now have every confidence has been accomplished.

The result of Mr. Leake's work is the Accounts now presented, viz., a net debit balance of Tls. 58,949.75 which should have appeared to the debit of the Accounts to 30th September, 1898. According to the Articles of Association these Accounts could not be revised and any such revision would not in any way have affected the final result of the Accounts made up to the 31st March, 1899. These Accounts, as already stated, show a net loss of Tls. 79,319.35, and it will be seen that this amount includes the payment of Tls. 8,000 to the American Trading Co. and also Tls. 4,129.87 outstanding to Preliminary Expense, which the Directors have thought well to write off. From the said loss will also be deducted in the next half-year Directors' Fees for the year ending the 30th September, 1899, amounting to Tls. 4,500, which, in consideration of the heavy loss incurred, the Directors have decided to refund.

Although not shown in the Accounts the Directors have had drawn up two separate Working Accounts, one for the three months ending the 31st December, 1898, and one for the three months ending the 31st March, 1899, the object being to show the progress made.

The result of the first three months is a loss of Tls. 14,877.42, which is much to be regretted, but it must be borne in mind that for a period the Mill was working "short-time," which means working at a loss; it was only towards the end of December that a change for the better took place, and the Directors hope it will be satisfactory to the Shareholders to know that the working for the last three months shows a profit of Tls. 24,286.36; this profit should have been larger, but for the unfortunate circumstance that contracts for Cotton at cheap prices were not fulfilled. In the one instance a contract for American Cotton which should have been received in January has only just arrived, and in the other instance contracts for seed Cotton, the non-delivery of which has given rise to lengthy litigation in the Mixed Court, with the result, however, that delivery of the Cotton is now being obtained. The non-fulfilment of these contracts necessitated for the time being the purchase on the spot of Cotton at high prices.

Since the 31st March the Mill has been working day and night to fulfil contracts made up to the end of this month, and the Directors hope that circumstances will so far assist their efforts that when they again come before the Shareholders at the end of the financial year the loss now standing in the books will have been considerably reduced.

Audit of Accounts.—The Shareholders will see that the Balance Sheet is signed by Mr. R. F. Eastlack only. Mr. T. Wood having refused to do so for the reasons stated in his letter attached to the Accounts.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, TO 31st MARCH, 1899.		
	Dr.	Tls.
To balance of account as rendered at 30th September, 1898		5,289.97
Items appertaining to accounts at 30th September, 1898, omitted:		
To legal expenses	506.00	
To Secretary's salary	3,000.00	
To cotton purchases account	49,482.50	
To duty packing, etc. account	3,793.60	
To stock account, mill stores	6,000.00	
To interest account	368.87	
		63,144.97
Less fire insurance account—Return premia received due 31/12/97	4,195.22	
		58,949.75
To American Trading Co. as per agreement		8,000.00
To General Agents' commission to 22nd November, 1898	1,307.00	
To expenses of general management from 22nd November, 1898	2,640.00	
		3,947.00

To directors' fees account half-year ending 31st March, 1899	2,250.00
To auditors' fees account half-year ending 31st March, 1899	250.00
	2,500.00
To interest account	5,832.39
To rent of Chinese houses account	107.01
To preliminary expenses account	4,129.87
	Tls. 88,756.99
To balance carried down	Tls. 79,319.35
By transfer fees account	28.76
By balance of working account half year ending 31st March, 1899	9,408.88
	9,437.64
By balance carried down	79,319.35
	Tls. 88,756.99

BALANCE SHEET, 31st MARCH, 1899.		
	LIABILITIES	Tls.
Capital account Tls. 1,000,000, of which 8,384 fully paid up shares Tls. 100.00 each		838,400.00
Russo-Chinese Bank—Overdraft at 31st March, 1899		353,470.99
Sundry creditors		52,663.61
		Tls. 1,274,539.00
	ASSETS	Tls.
Cash in hand with compradore		3,579.01
Building account	230,844.56	
Land improvement account	3,853.88	
		234,697.93
Plant and machinery account		747,784.81
Property account (land, Chinese houses, school house, hospital, etc.)		77,997.42
Grinding mill account		22,585.68
Steam-launch account		2,500.00
Furniture account		5,478.72
Sundry debtors		6,219.89
Unexpired fire premia		12,070.77
Stocks on hand—		
Sundries, mill stores, engine supplies, etc.	17,412.24	
Coal	5,356.23	
Cotton	35,857.95	
By products	11,034.68	
Yarn	12,644.92	
		82,306.02
Profit and loss account, balance, 31st March, 1899		79,319.35
		Tls. 1,274,359.80

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

From the *Manila Times* we learn that a severe fight took place at Bacoor on the 13th June. No details of the operation are given, but fourteen were known to have been killed on the American side, and the names of forty-two wounded are given and thirty more were being brought down to the hospital. We take from our contemporary the following items referring to other incidents of the war:—

FAMINE STRICKEN PARANAQUE AND LAS PINAS.

General Otis has ordered the Chief Commissary of the Department to distribute among the inhabitants of the above villages (which were captured by the American troops on Sunday, 11th inst.) and are now suffering for food, two hundred sacks of rice and five thousand pounds of beef in cans. The rice sent will be taken, as far as possible from captured enemy's stores now stored in Manila.

WAR IN CEBU.

El Progreso of 16th June contains the following Cebu news:—

"It is said that yesterday news was received by the head of a commercial firm in Manila by wire to the effect that in the province of Cebu war has broken out. Although we do not think the movement is of much political importance we are inclined to believe the report. This state of affairs has not been unexpected, since the *Aeolus* for several days past was known to have shipped reinforcements of men and artillery from Iloilo to Cebu. From those who are acquainted with the capital of Cebu we have learned that the town cannot be seriously threatened and that on the advance of the American troops the rebels will have to take to the mountains of Guadalupe and Lubton, where American artillery will reach them. The geographical position of the island also does not offer much chance of success to the rebels. Protected by an armed

launch, the Americans will be in a position to land troops all along the coast, and by leaving small detachments in all the pueblos, backed up by the launch placed in a good position, they can take possession of the whole territory, especially when it is remembered that their artillery can destroy the innermost village from the sea.

"Since writing the above the news of hostilities having broken out in Cebu between the Filipinos and the Americans was confirmed by a letter dated the 13th instant. The *Aeolus* took from Iloilo, on the 12th instant, to Cebu 400 soldiers and four guns."

AGUINALDO ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

17th June.

Aguinaldo is said to be tired of war and is willing to accept overtures of peace.

About 50 insurgents gave themselves up to the American authorities at Cavite this morning. All were armed with rifles.

REBELS ATTACK SAN FERNANDO.

17th June.

Yesterday the rebels made a well conceived but feebly-executed attack on San Fernando, where a portion of General MacArthur's division is located. The guards along the railway from Apalit up to San Fernando are so scattered that the rebels managed to remove some of the rails and cut the telegraph wire without being seen, and when the telegraph operator at Apalit found he could not communicate with San Fernando, he sent a man out to find where the break in the wire was. This man nearly walked plump into a camp of rebels, and he made a remarkably speedy return to Apalit to report on his discovery. Meanwhile, the rebels, having thus completely isolated San Fernando, proceeded to attack it. Their visit was quite an unexpected pleasure, so different from their usual retiring ways, and the boys in the trenches at San Fernando could hardly believe the thing was real. It seemed too good to be true. Rebels actually coming of their own accord to make a call! The innate courtesy of the American soldier rose to the occasion, and the San Fernando garrison came out joyfully to meet the visitors and to make them feel at home, or wish they were. It was no case of waiting in the trenches to be attacked, but a spontaneous rush out into the open to meet the advancing Filipinos. The Filipinos, however, very quickly got tired of advancing, and very speedily resumed their old favourite "vanishing act." They left about seventy dead on the field, and about twenty Filipinos were taken alive. American casualties, three or four wounded.

INSURGENT GENERAL LUNA DEAD.

14th June.

Many conflicting rumours regarding the death or assassination of General Luna are afloat. The actual facts are these. Luna being Lieut. General of Aguinaldo's forces and as such subject to Aguinaldo's orders has long harboured a feeling of ambitious jealousy towards his superior in command, superior as well in intelligence, tactics, and personal ascendancy and influence over the hearts and minds of the rebel troops. Luna gradually grew more and more independent, and Aguinaldo, who has had experience in the way to get rid of dangerous rivals, quietly waited for an opportunity, meantime secretly undermining Luna's influence. Finally Luna went, with his friend General Roman, to Aguinaldo's palace, to "have it out," and settle with Aguinaldo's there and then. The guard at the door said "Not at home," and refused admission. Luna and Roman insisted, an altercation ensued. Luna again attempted to pass and push the sentinel aside, and drawing his sword threatened to cut him down unless permitted to pass. The soldier, loyal to his chief, again refused to admit the outlaw upon which General Luna made a thrust at him with his sword, seconded by Gen. Roman; the sentinel parried the sword and pierced Luna's heart with the bayonet (another story says he shot Luna) then turning on Roman he served him likewise. Enormous excitement, but subdued, prevails amongst Filipinos of all classes; and exultation amongst Aguinaldo's adherents, because the death of Luna as Aguinaldo's greatest rival, solves the difficult problem of chieftainship over the rebel hordes.

THE SULU ISLANDS.

Singapore, 7th June.

A charming little point of international law arises about the Sulu Islands and the British steamer *Will-o-the-Wisp*. In those islands, the Spaniards only effectively held the town of Jolo and a few neighbouring islets. The country beyond was in the hands of the natives, a warlike race; and the Spaniards could only venture inland at the risk of their lives. Last month the Spanish garrisons concentrated at Jolo, and evacuated the islands. An American force landed and garrisoned Jolo. On the 1st June, we published a letter from Messrs. Syme and Co., Lloyd's agents here, stating that the steamer *Will-o-the-Wisp* had arrived at Kudat, in British North Borneo, with dates from the Philippines to the 18th May. The *Will-o-the-Wisp* brought the following warning from there: "By the direction of the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Naval force on the Asiatic Station; All trade with the Philippines is prohibited, except with the ports of Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, and Balabate. Ships are hereby warned to go nowhere else in the Philippines." On the next day 2nd June the Straits Settlements *Government Gazette* published a protocol signed at Madrid in 1877, between the Spanish, British, and German Governments, securing freedom of trade in Sulu.

To understand the Protocol it must be borne in mind that British and German subjects were then largely interested in the trade of Sulu, and that the Spaniards were trying to utilise their nominal sovereignty there to trammel commerce and to levy customs duties. Germany and Britain protested against this assumption of power. The Protocol settled the difficulty by recognising almost thorough freedom of trade and commerce in the Sulu islands to the vessels and subjects of Britain, Germany, and other Powers. Freedom of fishery and freedom from sanitary restrictions were also recognised. Spain agreed not to levy duties and not to enforce sanitary or commercial restrictions save at points effectively occupied by Spanish garrisons. It was stipulated expressly that, at places in the Sulu islands not effectively occupied by Spain, neither the ships nor the subjects of the aforesaid Powers, nor their goods, should be made liable to the payment of any due or duty, or to come under any sanitary regulation whatsoever.

The immediate republication of the Protocol, after the warning given to the *Will-o-the-Wisp*, points to cause and effect. It is not probable that the Straits Government officials would have remembered this long forgotten document, or could have ventured upon republishing a Foreign Office notification on their own mere motion. It is most likely that the persons interested in the Sulu trade in North Borneo had moved the Foreign Office direct, and called its attention to the telegraphic reports sent home as to the interference with the *Will-o-the-Wisp*. Further Mr. Keyser, who is British Consul at Labuan, may also, have telegraphically informed the Foreign Office of the matter. It would then be seen at once that the American action ran counter to the Protocol, and that the new possessors of the Sulu islands should be reminded that they had also taken over the obligations of their Spanish predecessors. That might mean that the British Foreign Office may simultaneously have made friendly representations to Washington, and may have telegraphically instructed the Straits and Hongkong Governments to republish the text of the Protocol. That would be for the (indirect) information of the American authorities at Manila, who will doubtless be informed at once, by the American Consuls, of the republication of the Protocol. The American Commander-in-Chief, who authorised the warning to the *Will-o-the-Wisp*, no matter whether he knew of the Protocol or not, may, of course, fairly plead that anarchy prevails in the Sulu islands and that the conditions admitting of the full application of the Protocol temporarily do not exist. But in that case, timely previous notification should have been given at ports trading with the Sulu islands. No official notification of it was certainly given here. Probably, to make a frank surmise, the American authorities were entirely ignorant that such a Protocol existed. Now they will acquire that information.—*Straits Times*.

THE C. D. O.

FRESH LEGISLATION.

Singapore, 10th June.

The persistent agitation by the Straits Settlements Association here and in London, aided by the China Association, for more stringent legislation against certain contagious diseases in the Colony resulted recently in the Secretary of State promising to direct the Governor to take some steps in the direction desired. The Secretary of State refused to sanction the stringent measures pressed for by the Association, but agreed to meet its views on sundry minor points. Another matter that had aroused public indignation was the want of adequate legislation against disorderly houses and against traders in prostitution. The Secretary of State has brought under the notice of the local Government these matters requiring legislative attention. The local Government now seeks to meet requirements by introducing into the Legislative Council a Bill intitled: an Ordinance to amend the Women and Girl's Protection Ordinance of 1890. The Bill is published in the last number of the *Government Gazette*.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons for the measure thus sets forth the scope of the Bill:—Section 2 puts a penalty, which may include banishment, upon any brothel-keeper who permits a woman suffering from a contagious disease to remain in a brothel for the purpose of prostitution. This clause will, it is hoped, tend to promote the proper medical treatment of prostitutes when suffering from disease; and the most effective provision of the Bill is one giving the Governor in Council power to banish any alien or any naturalised subject who is, for a second time, convicted of allowing a woman with contagious disease to remain in a brothel. In practice the keeper of such places are seldom natural-born British subjects, so that the power of banishment is likely to be effective and deterrent. Section 3 extends the Protector's powers of search. Section 4 adds four new sections numbered 18, 19, 20, and 21. Of these, Section 18 gives power to the Government to close a brothel without assigning a reason. It is not necessary under the new clause to prove to the Magistrate that the brothel is a nuisance to the neighbourhood. Section 19 gives the police and the Protectorate extended powers of visitation and search of disorderly houses. Section 20 makes the owner of premises used as a brothel liable to fine, on a conviction being obtained a second time for an offence under the Ordinance committed in respect of the same premises. Section 21 reproduces the provisions of "The English Vagrant Act 1898" which renders persons trading in prostitution liable to imprisonment. The class of persons to be dealt with is said to be on the increase in the Colony.—*Straits Times*.

GOLD DEPOSITS IN FORMOSA.

Amongst the facts not generally known, we may mention from information received, say the *Japan Herald*, that there are rich gold deposits in Formosa which are being assiduously worked by Japanese, who are doing their best to prevent the outside world from acquiring knowledge that the auriferous treasures to be found in the alluvium, and also in the beds of streams, are remarkable for their richness. Not only is this the case with the free gold, but in the original matrix. The quartz is being crushed by machinery, and batteries of stamps have been secretly imported from abroad and are already at work, and are in course of being added to, so encouraging are the results, since the percentage of the precious metal to the ton may be assumed to be sufficiently high to warrant the erection of additional stampers. The locality where these successful operations are being carried on is in the north eastern portion of the island. The Japanese who are obtaining so much gold are naturally desirous that the knowledge of the fact not be spread abroad, lest there be a rush of others to participate in their good fortune. These particulars have been privately communicated to us in the interest of the general public, so that they may be made known through our columns. It is not worth while going to the Klondike, with all its risks, expenses, and hardships, when there are rich diggings so easily accessible from both

China and Japan. There is, however, one uncertainty as to how the Government would treat foreign gold-seekers. Would they be disposed to grant claims, licenses, or to tax the gold procured, or, what is not unlikely, refuse to permit foreign diggers to work the auriferous deposits. It is true that Japanese are permitted to take up claims and work them in Australia, Canada, and America, but it is by no means certain that the same liberality of treatment will be meted out by the Formosan authorities; but the experiment should be tried. The information we give about the gold deposits in Formosa we have received from a reliable authority.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO ARHDEA CON WARREN.

Kobe, 8th June.

Many of our readers will regret to learn that Archdeacon Warren has sustained a nasty accident at Fukuyama. While inspecting the cellar at Mr. Swann's former residence, the reverend gentlemen slipped and fell on his head. He was able to walk home, but has, we understand, since become unconscious.

Since the above was in type, we regret to learn that the accident has proved fatal. A correspondent writes:—Archdeacon Warren of Osaka died yesterday, Wednesday (exact time unknown) as the result of an accident, at Fukuyama, Bingo provinces. It appears he was looking over one of the mission houses and in going down to inspect a cellar he fell ten steps. He walked back to the house at which he was staying, but complained of his head and lay down in the hope that the rest would do it good. Apparently he lapsed into unconsciousness, from which he never recovered. Evidently there had been a rupture of one of the blood-vessels of the brain caused by the fall. Medical assistance was telegraphed for but despite all that the foreign and Japanese doctors could do, he gradually sank.—*Chronicle*.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board will be held this afternoon.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—J. D. Hutchison & Co. \$50.

With regard to the stories which are afloat as to the proposal to hand back Kowloon City and Samchun to the Chinese we may state that everything has been definitely settled as to the taking over of Kowloon City, which has been handed over to the civil authorities. Samchun is, however, still in military occupation.

BANK-NOTE FORGERS AND COINERS.

At the Mixed Court at Shanghai on the 16th June, before the magistrate, Mr. Weng and the British assessor, Mr. Mayers, three Ningpo men were charged with being concerned with others not on duty in forging a number of \$5 bank notes, the facsimile of the Imperial Bank of China notes, thereby defrauding the Bank and the public, also with being in the possession of machinery and plant for their manufacture. Deputy Captain Superintendent Mackenzie prosecuted on behalf of the police. Mr. A. W. Maitland, acting Chief Manager of the Imperial Bank of China, stated that on the 10th inst., two notes were handed into the Bank which were forgeries. He communicated with Detective Inspector Armstrong. On the 14th inst., four more of the forged notes were presented at the Bank and the men were subsequently arrested. Detective Inspector Armstrong said he arrested the prisoners on the 14th. For some time he had had his eye on the chief prisoner's movements and noticed that he was continually changing his abode, and upon examination of each of the vacated places he had always discovered traces of burnt parchment and occasionally marks of red and brown paint. On the 14th inst. he arrested this prisoner in the Amoy Road, and in taking him to the station prisoner tried to pass a purse to another man, who was at once arrested. The purse was afterwards found to contain a forged facsimile of the \$5 notes in question. The first-named prisoner gave information at the police station as to the whereabouts of an accomplice, and he (Armstrong) and Detective Gillfillan, upon searching the accomplice's premises in Seward Road, found in

some bedding the wooden stamp used for stamping the Bank Manager's name on the notes, also about 50 of the notes hidden in the roof of the garret. He arrested the occupant. 118 notes ready for circulation and 200 in different stages of production were shown to the Court, as was also the machinery. Four of the notes are still in circulation. After examination of the prisoners by the Magistrate, the prisoner to whom the purse had been passed was discharged for want of sufficient proof of complicity. The other two admitted their guilt and were each sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

The Assessor highly complimented Detective-Inspector Armstrong and Detective J. Gilfillan upon the excellent manner in which they had effected the arrest, and requested Deputy Captain Superintendent Mackenzie to bring the fact to the notice of Captain Pattison.

Three Ningpo men and a Ningpo woman were charged, with others not in custody, with coining a number of 10 and 20-cent pieces and putting same in circulation, thereby defrauding the public, also with being in possession of dies for the purpose of manufacturing the said coins. The discovery of these "smashers" was made by Constable Lynch, who, while in the performance of the special duty of tax collecting, called at No. 370, Broadway on the 14th inst., and failing to obtain admission, forced the door open and there found a quantity of coins on the floor and the dies for their production. The woman and one of the men were discharged for want of evidence against them, but the other two were each sentenced to five years' imprisonment. —N. C. Daily News.

SAD DROWNING ACCIDENT.

A sad drowning accident, resulting in the death of a young apprentice of the British sailing ship *Semantha*, occurred on 15th June outside Tungsha lightship. The vessel, outward bound, was in tow of the tug-boat *Fuhle* at the time. While taking in the accommodation ladder one of the apprentices named Dekyokere fell overboard. The tug was immediately stopped, a tow line cast off and rounded to the rescue, while the people on the *Semantha* threw two life-buoys from each quarter of the vessel. The unfortunate lad rose to surface between the two buoys, but five or six feet away from either, and though he tried hard to reach one or the other, he failed and sank finally before the tug could reach him. The *Fuhle* circled round the spot, where the lad disappeared for about half an hour, but he never rose again and the body has not been recovered.

We understand that the lad was a very well connected young Belgian his father being the head dockmaster at Antwerp. He was a great favorite with the Captain and all on board. His family has been pursued by a remarkable fatality. The deceased was one of four brothers all of whom were drowned while serving their apprenticeship to the sea. —China Gazette.

THE LAW OF DEVOLUTION OF LAND AT SHANGHAI.

In the Supreme Court at Shanghai, on the 8th May, the Chief Justice, Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, gave an interesting judgment in a case in which the question raised was whether the devolution of a certain piece of land at Shanghai belonging to the estate of an intestate who was domiciled in Scotland should be governed by Scotch or English law.

Having shown that the law of China could not apply his Lordship went on to say:—But although I hold that the Chinese law does not apply in such a case as the present, yet as the subject matter is undoubtedly immovable the *lex loci* according to the common law of England must be applied to it; we have therefore to ascertain what the *lex loci* is. Mr. Wilkinson on behalf of the defendant, Thomas Graham Watson, has contended that the law of China being put aside the law of the domicile of the owner should be the law to govern in this case. He alleged many reasons which have pressed me very much for applying the *lex domicilii*. He pointed out that a man probably knows how the law of his domicile will dispose of his immovable property if he does not direct by will how it shall be distributed, but he may be quite

ignorant how any other law will dispose of it, and he argued that the intention of the owner of property who died intestate will be best carried out if we apply the *lex domicilii*. This may be so, and it may be more consonant with justice that the *lex domicilii* should be applied, but I think that for me to determine in such a case as the present that the *lex domicilii* applies would be making and not interpreting the law. What has been the practice here in Shanghai where land has been owned by British subjects for more than 50 years? For a long period it was treated as personality, and at first it is probable that this way of looking at the land owned by British subjects here was correct; for most, if not all the land which was first leased was leased by merchants and formed part of the partnership property. So long as it formed part of the partnership property it was properly treated as personality. As years went on partners in the firms went home but left some of their money in the houses and land on which their business had been conducted, and let to the continuing partners the land and houses which belonged to them; but it did not occur to them or to anybody else at the time that this turned the land from personality, as may be contended that it had been before, to realty as it became afterwards. The law officers of the Crown have now determined that for probate duty purposes the land here is realty not personality; but during the whole of this time sales, leases and mortgages of land have taken place and have been carried out in accordance with the law of England as modified by the orders in Council. If the law of the domicile of the owner is to govern in the case of succession to land here it must also govern the mode of transfer of land.

Now British subjects in Shanghai come from all parts of the Empire some of them from Canada some from Australia; some from Scotland some from Ireland and some from Her Majesty's Indian Empire. Many of these do, and all of them may own land in Shanghai. According to Tootal's Trusts the British subject does not lose his domicile of origin by residing in China; the result of this is that in the transfer of land here in Shanghai, if we hold that the law of the domicile is to govern, we shall have to enquire on every occasion what the method of land transfer in the country of the domicile of the owner is; so that no piece of land could be safely transferred from a British subject without first enquiring what that British subject's domicile was, and next what the law of transfer is in,—it may be the French provinces of Canada, it may be Scotland, Ireland, or some other part of Her Majesty's dominions. This does not seem to me to be reasonable, and whether it is reasonable or not it is certain that it has not been the practice here. I cannot be quite sure, but I think I am right in saying that in no case has the law of the domicile of the owner of land been considered when dealing with it.

But suppose it is held that the Chinese law applies. There is no such thing as a law regulating the devolution or dealing with land throughout China. The land is subject to the local customs and the custom of the family owning it. If we were to ask any Chinese magistrate what was the law relating to such land as that in question in this case, he would want to know what the custom was with regard to it, and it would never occur to him to disregard what had been the custom in dealing with it ever since this kind of tenure had come into existence. I think therefore that whatever way we look at it we come back to the same result, namely, that for my present purpose the *lex loci* in Shanghai is, in fact, that law which has been followed ever since land here has been owned by British subjects, i.e., the law of England. I therefore hold that the property in question in the present case is of the nature of *immobilia*, that it is subject to the *lex loci*, that the *lex loci* is the law of England applicable to immovables in England as modified (if it has been modified) by Orders in Council.

The form of administration is reserved; costs of the parties to come out of the estate.

Mr. Wilkinson said that he understood his Lordship to say that there was no instance of other than English law having been applied in that Consulate in the distribution of a British

subject's property. Some time ago, to his own knowledge, Scotch law was applied to some property over at Pootung, and was agreed to by all the parties.

His Lordship replied that there was no record of any such thing in the Consulate. Of course the parties might agree to treat the land according to the law of Otabiti, but there might be no record of that having been done in the Consular records. At any rate, his enquiries and researches had revealed nothing of the kind.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 5th June.

The news of the week is the sudden and unexpected promotion of Chang Yih from the second chair in the Railway directorate to a seat in the Tsungli Yamen. The statement seems to be authentic, having reached us via the foreign Legations in Peking. It is generally understood that the honour is by no means welcome to the recipient, whose *forte* hitherto has been Chinese finance and not foreign diplomacy. Speculators here do not hesitate to credit the change to the powerful initiative of Mr. Bax-Ironside, our Chargé d'Affaires in Peking; but on what grounds I do not know. It is at least a curious coincidence that Chang's vacation of the Railway Office follows so swiftly on the philippics of the *Times* against him. It is just possible, however, that the real explanation lies in the fact that His Excellency has discovered that the Railway is not the happy hunting ground he imagined for financial game. Thanks to the Cerberus-like influence of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and Chang's numerous enemies and rivals, its accounts are carefully watched; and then, too, the powers now held by the Engineer-in-chief, leakage of fund, either in construction or maintenance, is very difficult.

The nomination of a man like Chang's, humble antecedents and lack of scholarship, to the Tsungli Yamen is notable. A few years ago he was in a position all but menial in the household of the Seventh Prince. Considering how scholars usually despise the illiterate in China, I fear he will not have a happy time in his new office. Chang has always been written down as anti-British, but no real evidence has ever been adduced on the point. After all that has been written against him in the English press, I fear his influence, however small, will not be on the side of the angels in the Yamen.

The departure of Baron and Baroness Von Heyking has been the other event of the week. Our German neighbours spontaneously resolved to show their sense of their Minister's services by a complimentary banquet, and did so in a thoroughly handsome manner. Gordon Hall was taken and finely festooned with flowers and embroidery. Covers were laid for eighty-five, including fourteen ladies; and after the more formal proceedings of speech-making and the banquet, a pleasant social evening was spent in dancing. Herr Schroetter, of Messrs. Telge, presided, and eloquently expressed the sentiments of all present. He warmly eulogized the consummate ability and strength displayed in Peking by their guest during the greatest crisis in modern Chinese history, and especially referred to their guest's action re Kiaochau; he said that in Von Heyking's term of office the Fatherland's position and prestige in the Far East had risen indefinitely.

The Baron made a modest reply; he entirely omitted all reference to Kiaochau (probably as exclusively the policy of the Emperor William) and dwelt on the success of his efforts in securing the Chinkiang Railway. He was grateful not only for this splendid testimony of the sentiments of the German community in Tientsin, but for the staunch support and sympathy extended to him from Fatherlanders all up and down the Littoral during his tenure of office. If he had been able to be of any use to them it was only in the bare exercise of duty and in the reaction of gratitude.

The proceedings lasted till 1.30 a.m. On Friday the distinguished visitors, accompanied by the German marine guard which has been here all the winter, were seen off by the whole German community. They embarked at Taku in the Kaiserin Augusta for Shanghai.

The position of Naval Adviser held by the late Captain Dundas, R.N., is to be taken up by Lieut. Lymberg, late of the Royal Danish Navy. The appointment is of no practical importance, as there are no present duties beyond that of drawing pay; but it is potentially important, and in its side issues is very significant. Mr. Lymberg is a protégé of Count Cassini and was introduced into the Chinese Service under the steady pressure of the Russian Legation in Peking in 1896 at a time when pin-pricking of England was a favourite diplomatic pastime. It will be curious to see how the English Foreign Office and the Legation people in Peking will take this appointment. The Admiralty and officers of the China Squadron will view it with indifference; they have never felt any enthusiasm on the question of China's naval strength, from a conviction that the Chinese navy must remain a farce (when it is not a temptation or inducement to attack) as long as it is in native hands.

This reminds me that (bravet) Rear-Admiral Yeh has now taken command at Taku. Admiral Yeh is a fine fellow, able and competent, and if anything can be done he is the man to do it. His two great difficulties are personal, especially with the junior commissioned officers, and supply. The condition of affairs on shore which led to the failure at the Yalu again obtains; there is no guarantee that the ships will be well found in stores or in ammunition.

Warren's Circus is here sweetening the life of the natives and foreigners alike. A circus is about the only form of accidental show that has any chance in this remote off-corner of the world. The Europeans are too few and too polyglot for a good theatrical company, but the Chinese dearly love a circus and especially with good horsemanship and plenty of the zany element. The natives rise instantly to the drolleries of the clowns. Unfortunately Messrs. Warrens are just a little deficient in these two features, but it is so long since we have had a circus that comparisons are not made. A very intelligent Chinese gentleman assures me that it is current in native circles that one of the performing donkeys actually speaks! Tell it not in Gath that the asinine tongue is English.

Sir Thomas Jackson's honour has been received in Tientsin and Peking with unbounded satisfaction. His ability and urbanity are widely recognised up here. It is not too much to say that Sir Thomas has done more for British interests in China than nine-tenths of all other influences put together. We look on him as the pivot on which the whole trade of the East turns, and our wonder is that the richly merited honour has been so long delayed.

HONGKONG.

Mr. T. Sercombe Smith goes home on leave on the 28th inst.

Inspector Reidie, who was attacked by plague, is now convalescent.

There were 1,705 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 159 were Europeans.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 26.9, and for the Chinese community, 34.8.

Tuesday being Accession day the men-of-war in harbour and the *Empress of India* were decorated and at noon a salute was fired.

At the Summary Court on Tuesday Mr. Justice Wise sentenced the plaintiff in a case and one of his witnesses to two months' imprisonment for perjury.

It is reported that whilst Kowloon City is Shamshuen is to be handed back to the Chinese authorities in consideration of the latter paying an indemnity of \$93,000 on account of the recent disturbances.

The Japanese torpedo boat destroyer *Inaduma*, which left London on 26th April, arrived on Saturday afternoon. The *Inaduma*, built by Messrs. Yarrow and Co., Poplar, has not been commissioned yet and is being navigated to Japan by a British crew.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday ex-warder Davies pleaded guilty to stealing \$60 from a locked box, the property of warder Burn, from the officers' quarters in Hollywood Road, \$50 has been recovered. The man was sentenced to four months with hard labour.

The Secretary of the Panjom Mining Co., Limited, advises having received the following telegram from the mines yesterday morning:—"Tangkong, have struck the lode on the 100 feet level, average width of lode is 3 feet, assays average 21 dwts per ton (1 1/20 oz per ton)."

Whilst the steamer *Choyzang*, Capt. Bowker, from Hongkong, was approaching Breker Point on the morning of the 11th June, three Chinese were observed adrift in a sampan and making signals of distress. On taking them on board they reported being the only survivors of a fishing junk's crew of ten. The Captain took the men on to Shanghai.

At about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning one of the brick pillars which supported the roof of a godown at 73, Praya East, occupied by Tong-ling's Engineering Works, gave way. In consequence a portion of the roof fell upon the men working below and two of them were seriously injured that they had to be taken to the Government Civil Hospital.

The resolution of the Sanitary Board declaring health districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 infected with plague is published in the *Gazette*. No. 9 district has already been declared infected. The whole of the city from Pedder Street, to Cadogan Street, Kennedytown, and from the harbour to Caine Road and the Pokfulam conduit is now covered by the proclamations.

At about half-past seven on Wednesday night a fire broke out at a Japanese piece goods store at 205, Queen's Road Central, it being caused through the knocking over of a lamp on the first floor. The Fire Brigade was quickly on the spot, and confined the fire to the first floor. Damage was done by fire and water to the extent of \$3,000, which is covered by insurance, the property being insured in the Hansatic Insurance Company for \$7,000.

The German transport *Weimar*, Com. H. Bleeker, left Wilhelmshaven on 12th May and arrived at Singapore on the 9th June. She has a tonnage of 3,175 and h.p. power 3,200. It was expected the *Weimar* would leave on the 10th for Amoy. There are on board 11 Officers, 46 N. C's., and 843 Mannschaften for service with the German Squadron in the Far East. The *Weimar*, the *Free Press* says, would have come to Hongkong to effect reliefs with the old crews but for the plague here.

The appointment of the following gentlemen to be a Committee for looking after the Queen's Recreation Ground (Causeway Bay) and for the drawing up of regulations in connection therewith is gazetted:—The Director of Public Works (Chairman), Commander C. W. Plenderleath, R.N., Captain Sir H. McMahon, Bart., R.W.F., Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Mr. H. L. Dalrymple, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., Messrs. E. A. Ram, E. D. Sanders, J. Barton, and T. F. Hough.

It is notified that from the 1st July the rate of postage on newspapers to Australia, British India, Netherlands India, and the various countries of the Far East is to be 2 cents per 4 ounces. At present the rate is 2 cents per 2 ounces, and as newspapers are generally over 2 ounces in weight the postage costs 4 cents. The raising of the limit of weight will therefore result in a saving to the senders. The boon would have been still more appreciated had it been made applicable to newspapers sent to the United Kingdom.

An old lady—a Jewess—who appeared at the Magistracy on Saturday morning to charge a man of her own persuasion with creating a disturbance at her house, replied when his Worship asked her where she lived, "I don't know the house or the street." His Worship repeated his query and she replied, "I live opposite some inspectors and sergeants."—His Worship: Do you live in a house?—Complainant: Yes.—His Worship: Which floor?—Complainant: First floor.—His Worship: Is it a brick house or a wooden house, or a mat-shed.—Complainant: An ordinary house.—She went on to say that the previous night defendant came to her house and used threatening language towards herself and daughter.—Defendant said complainant's daughter, who was a girl of 15, wanted to marry his son, who was much younger, but he was opposed to this as they had no money. On his going to the house the girl asked him for \$500, and because he refused to give her the money there was a disturbance. Defendant was bound over in his personal security of \$20 to keep the peace.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Lammert offered for sale by auction, by order of the mortgagees, seven lots of leasehold and reclamation properties. There was some spirited competition, and the lots were disposed of as follows:—Inland lot 1414, area 535 square feet, annual crown rent \$8; sold to Mr. Yuen Li Chuu for \$11,500. Sub-section No. 2 of section N of Inland Lot No. 211, area 535 square feet, annual crown rent \$8.40, sold to Mr. Lo Hung Tung for \$3,700. Section C of Marine Lot No. 199, area 1861 square feet, annual crown rent \$20.25, sold to Mr. Fung Wa Chuen for \$6,100. Mr. Fung Wa Chuen also bought for \$2,200 section K of Marine Lot No. 199, the area of which is 667 square feet, crown rent \$5.50. Mr. Siu Tak Fan bought for \$6,100 section B of Marine Lot No. 193, area 1576 square feet, crown rent \$19.20. Section H of Marine Lot No. 198, area 974 square feet, crown rent \$11.50, was sold to Mr. Mak Lai Tong for \$2,000; and Mr. Lo Shui bought for \$30,400 the remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 238, together with the reclamation to the remaining portion of the said lot, area of lot 443 square feet, crown rent \$7.84.

At the Magistracy on 16th June Chan Mi Kwai, an interpreter in the employ of the Sanitary Board, and his son were charged on remand with assaulting Fung Chi Ming, a medical student who has been employed by the Sanitary Board to search for plague cases. According to complainant's story he went to inspect No. 23, Western Street, where defendants live, on the 8th of June, and on his drawing aside the curtain of a cubicle the father rushed out and assaulted him when he got outside. Mr. Looker, who appeared for defendants, contended that it was not contemplated by the Ordinance as to visitation that a visitation should be conducted by such a person as complainant. Had he been accompanied by an officer of the Sanitary Board it would have been all right. Had complainant been asked for his authority for making the inspection he could not have produced one.—His Worship: Supposing I hold that first defendant was not an officer of the Sanitary Board according to the Ordinance, that might dispose of the charge against him, but how about the charge against the son?—Mr. Looker said the son saw his father in the hands of a lunk. He asked what was the matter, and not being able to get a satisfactory answer he in a fit of irritation committed what might amount to an assault on complainant, who, he saw, was responsible for his father being in custody. He suggested that if His Worship decided that the son committed an assault the justice of the case would be met by his being bound over.—His Worship held that complainant was not an officer of the Sanitary Board. The first defendant was discharged and the son was bound over to keep the peace.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Foreigners who are not anxious, when touring the country, to secure cheap lodgings for a night at a police station or a railway station, should not—for the present—travel without a passport in Japan. A Russian gentleman, who arrived at Moji by a Kynshin train on the evening of the 9th, was unable to produce a passport when applied to by the police. The gentleman stated that he was an officer under the Russian Government, and that he was proceeding to Yokohama from Nagasaki. It appears from the report in the vernacular papers that the gentleman was compelled to spend the night at Moji Station in the company of a policeman and interpreter, because he was without a passport. The Japanese policeman, says the *Hyogo News*, will hardly know himself in a couple of months' time when he is divested of the little authority which enables him to deal so arbitrarily with the foreigner.

Singapore has imposed nine days' quarantine against arrivals from Penang, in connection with which the *Straits Times* says:—It is a curious coincidence that while daily cases of plague have been reported at Penang, no quarantine regulation has been enforced. The very afternoon that the notification "no cases—no deaths" is sent round, there is also issued a regulation enforcing nine days' quarantine on arrivals from Penang—or in the words of shipowner "plenty plague, no quarantine."

plenty quarantine, no plague." It is possible that to avoid the inconvenience of being quarantined at Singapore for nine days, some vessels will not touch at Penang, but will come straight on. On the other hand the full period of detention is not likely to be enforced in every case inasmuch as the Health Officer of the Port has full discretion in the matter and may, if he thinks fit, release a ship before the expiry of the nine days.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Arthur Ilbert will be received with great regret by his numerous friends in Shanghai. Mr. Ilbert came to Japan in the very early sixties as a clerk in the firm of Newberry, Elliot & Co., of which firm he became manager very shortly afterwards. When Newberry, Elliot & Co. closed in Shanghai, Mr. Ilbert joined the late Mr. Bidwell in business, under the firm of Ilbert and Bidwell, but the connection did not last very long, and he afterwards established the firm of Ilbert & Co., but withdrew from any active part in 1887. Mr. Ilbert was a thoroughly good sportsman, and always a foremost figure on the Shanghai turf. He very nearly won the first paper-hunt that took place in Shanghai, the finish of which was inside the Hermitage compound, as he arrived first at the gate, where his pony was balked and refused to enter, so that another rider passed him.—*N. C. Daily News.*

At Shanghai on Sunday, 11th June, shortly before noon, a boat containing eight blue jackets belonging to H.M.S. *Woodlark* who were returning from church parade was capsized under somewhat peculiar circumstances, namely, the carrying away of the small awning guy on the starboard side, thus causing the awning, which runs fore and aft the boat, to show its broadside to the wind that at the time was a bit fresh, and so causing a side pressure which the small craft, already laden, was unable to withstand. Boats were lowered, life-buoys thrown, and every effort made, but had it not been for the plucky conduct of Lieut.-Commander Barton one of the men must have lost the number of his mess, for when rescued by the gallant officer, who dived after him, he was completely exhausted and on the verge of drowning. The remainder of the crew were quickly got on board of their vessel and the up-turned boat was recovered by a party from the *Hermione*.—*N. C. Daily News.*

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 9th June says—The death of Mr. Thomas Wood will be a sad blow to all his numerous friends in Shanghai, for a kinder hearted and more genial companion than Tom Wood it would be difficult to find anywhere. It can be safely said that he had not an enemy in the place, while all who knew him were quick to recognise his sterling worth. He came out to China nearly thirty years ago as an assistant in the firm of Drysdale, Ringer & Co., and he remained with them until the firm gave up business, having been made a partner, but most of the time he was their representative at Hankow. Of recent years he was connected with the Sheridan and Belmont Mining Companies, and the Shanghai Waterworks Co. For some time past Mr. Wood suffered from failing health, but nothing serious was anticipated, until a fainting fit on Wednesday morning caused prolonged unconsciousness. He recovered during the day, and hopes were for a time entertained that he would recover, but another seizure towards evening unfortunately proved fatal. The funeral at the New Cemetery yesterday evening was very largely attended by sympathetic friends.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 16th June.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular).—The Hankow market for New Season's Congou on the 8th May, and by latest advice from there nearly the whole of the first crop had been realised. The crop has been housed in excellent condition and in this respect it is far above the average of the past few seasons, in fact we have to go back to about the year 1886 for a similar crop. Common to medium Teas have been wanted for all markets and the competition for them has been keen, resulting in Tls. 1 to 3 a picul higher price than were current for some grades last season, but as they are nearly all good consumable Teas, and good enough for most requirements, they will probably

prove to be the best risk. High priced Teas do not stand away from the lower grades sufficiently to cover the difference in cost. The lowest quotation for whole leaf Tea is Hk. Tael 11½ a picul. Total arrivals to 8th instant 632,677 half-chests, against 611,368 half-chests. Total settlements 6,902 half-chests, against 547,262 half-chests in 1898. In Shanghai a few parcels of Wenchow have found buyers at full prices, Tls 18 being the lowest quotation. Green Teas.—The first Wenchow packed Teas were offered on 8th instant, and the market for them was opened to-day by the purchase of two chops at Tls. 23 and 25, or say about 4 taels a picul under last season's opening rates. In quality they are similar to those of last season. Pingsuys began to arrive on 10th instant, but owing to the firmness of Teamen the market was not opened until 14th, when seven chops were taken at Tls. 25 at Tls. 25, or about Tls 4 under early rates last season, the reduction in price is mostly owing to the lower values of the finer lines; common lines are comparatively dear. The Teas are good, sound and useful, but without attractiveness in appearance. Quality considered they are reasonable in price, and this opening will tend to keep down prices of Country Tea, as they are as drinkable as the ordinary produce of Tienkai and Moyune. The market closes quiet, with little desire on the part of buyers to continue buying unless at a reduction of Tls. 1 at 2 a picul.

Settlements to date are 5,626 boxes.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	7,024,666	3,837,939
Amoy.....	87,684	679,235
Canton.....	140,941	...
	7,251,091	4,517,174

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	1,222,849	1,132,577
Amoy.....	5,849	1,061,975
Foochow.....	539,991	...
	1,768,689	2,194,552

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	8,045,356	8,345,515

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	2,166,218	2,348,850
Shimonoseki.....	501,227	686,260
	2,667,445	3,035,110

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 17th June.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Son's Circular).—The Home markets are dull, and quotations remain unchanged. Raw Silk.—There has been a good steady business the last few days, and prices for favorite chops have risen Tls. 10. Gold Killings closing with buyers at Tls. 505. Hangchows and Kahings have also been in request, and total settlements of White Silk amount to 2,500 bales, practically all of which is for July/August shipment. Yellow Silk.—Contracts have been made to the extent of 250 bales at prices below. The quality this year of all the Yellow Silk to hand is better than for some years past. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, June 10th to 16th, are: 5,335 bales White, 30 bales Yellow and 578 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Hand Filatures.—Not much has been done, the time required for delivery, owing to the heavy contracts made in April/May, putting a stop to business. Steam Filatures.—A small business has been done as per quotations below, producers still ask high rates. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is 57 bales to America, and 37 bales to the Continent. Wild Silk.—About 100 bales Filatures have been settled. Waste Silk.—For some time past buyers have been very anxious to make contracts, and the consequence is that dealers have asked extreme prices, and have succeeded in placing 1,400/1,500 piculs Curiles at Tls. 59/60 for No. 1 and Tls. 51/52 for 1. 2 and 3, 60 percent, 30 percent, 10 percent.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-99
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	3651	1018
Canton.....	33,880	24,874
Yokohama.....	19,392	...
	56,923	25,892

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	117	126
Canton.....	11,782	11,893
Yokohama.....	29,891	...
	41,790	12,019

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Prices have still further improved. Quotations for Formosa are \$62.00 to \$63.00. Sales 25 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—A further rise in price has to be reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.95 to \$8.00	cl.
do. " " White...	7.45 to 7.50	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.30 to 5.35	"
do. " " Brown...	5.20 to 5.2	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.90 to 7.95	"
do. " " White...	7.35 to 7.40	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.25 to 5.30	"
do. " " Brown...	5.10 to 5.15	"
Foochow Sugar...	11.15 to 11.20	"
Shanghai...	10.55 to 10.60	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Glancus*, sailed on the 1st June: For London:—376 boxes tea (particulars unknown), 178 boxes tea (3,738 lbs. Sc. Or. Pekoe) 415 boxes tea (8,715 lbs. Sorts), 250 bales waste silk, 7 bales hemp, 102 packages feathers, 524 packages shells, 20 packages private effects, and 13 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—400 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—14 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—52 bales mat bags. For Havre:—27 cases shells. For Hamburg:—5 cases shells.

Per steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 17th June: For Milan:—30 bales raw silk. For France:—832 bales raw silk, 5 cases silks, 3 packages tea, 1 case vases, 25 cases staranised, and 1 roll matting. For London:—1 case silks.

Per P & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on the 20th June. For Manchester:—110 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases cigars from Manila, 5 cases bristles, 345 bales bambooware, 4 cases curios, 2 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases albumen, 109 packages feathers, 1 case cigars, 10 packages sundries, 208 boxes tea (4,368 lbs. Congou, 10,208 boxes tea 214,868 lbs. Sc. caper, 120 boxes tea 2,520 lbs. Sc. Or. Pekoe, and 50 packages tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Bengal.—The market has been dull during the past week and closes quiet at the following figures:—New Patna \$780, Old Patna \$820, and New Benares \$787½.

Malwa.—Rates remain unchanged. There has not been much doing during the past week. Closing quotation are:—

Old (2 yrs.) \$750 with allowance 0 to 1½ cutties.	
" (3/4 ") \$760 " " " 0 to 3 " "	
" (5/6 ") \$780 " " " 0 to 2 " "	
" (7 ") \$830 " " " 0 to 1 " "	
" (8/10 ") \$855 " " " 0 to 3 " "	

Persian.—There has been no improvement in the market, which closes quiet at following figures:—Only \$850 and Paper tied \$850 to \$765 according to quality.

Today's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna.....	165 chests.
Old Patna.....	496 " "
New Benares.....	158 " "
Old Benares.....	26 " "
Malwa.....	355 " "
Persian.....	776 " "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 17	740	820	787½	—	—	—
June 18	740	820	787½	—	—	—
June 19	760	820	787½	—	—	—
June 20	767½	820	787½	—	—	—
June 21	780	820	787½	—	—	—
June 22	780	820	787½	—	—	—
June 23	780	820	787½	—	—	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Steady market prevailed and prices slightly improved; superior qualities are scarce and wanted. Stocks, about 8,000 bales.

Bombay... 15.00 to 16.00 picul.
Kurrachees... — to —
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca... 15.50 to 17.50 picul.
Shanghai and Japanese... 20.00 to 21.00
Tungchow and Ningpo... 20.00 to 21.00
Madras (Best)... — to —
Sales: 18,000 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—The firmness last reported continues and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary... \$2.30 to 2.35
Round, good quality... 2.75 to 2.80
Long... 3.05 to 3.01
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1... 3.00 to 3.05
Garden, No. 1... 3.25 to 3.35
White... 3.77 to 3.82
Fine Cargo... 3.95 to 4.00

COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Market continues very quiet. No sales. Quotations are:—

Australian... \$18.00 to — ex ship, nominal
Milk Lump... 11.00 to — ex ship, steady
Milk Lump and Small... 9.00 to 10.00 nominal,
Milk Lump... 6.75 to 9.00 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double screened... 12.00 to — ex godown
Hongay Lump... 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust... 5.50 to —
Briquettes... 10.50 to — ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—
1,150 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$74.50, 90 bales No. 12 at \$68 to \$75.75; 350 bales No. 16 at \$79 to \$90.50, 700 bales No. 20 at \$78 to \$85.25, Grey Shirtings—1250 pieces 10 lbs. C.U.W. Sycee at \$4; 500 pieces 11 lbs. C. Red Flower at \$3.25, 250 pieces 12 lbs. Blue Dragon at 4.45, 500 pieces 13 lbs. C.W.W. Sycee at \$4.00, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.25, 500 pieces Green Flower at 2.95; \$3.00, pieces 8 lbs. G. Blue Joss at \$2.9, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Dragon at \$3.87, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Red Cock at \$2.57, White Shirtings—250 pieces C. Chop at \$5.60, 500 pieces Chop X 7 at \$10, 500 pieces Chop X 8 at \$4.40, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.00, 100 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95, 500 pieces Chop 8 Q at 4.42, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 200 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95, 250 pieces D 70 at \$3.65, 250 pieces No. 600 at \$4.42, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.07, Cloths—300 pieces 8 lbs. V V at \$2.97, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex V V at \$2.97, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag at \$3.07, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.37, Bengal Cotton—100 bales at \$16.

METALS.—Tinplates—300 pieces at \$7.50 to arrive.

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s... 58.00 to 91.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24... 101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24... 106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32... 114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42... 125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 1.90 to 2.00
8.4 lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lb. 3.25 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.3 to 2.50
58 to 60 .. 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 .. 3.50 to 4.35
Fine 4.30 to 7.65
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65

Victoria Lawn—12 yards ... 0.60 to 1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
7lbs. (32 in.) ... 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 in.) Moxs. 1.62 to 1.82
7lbs. (32 in.) ... 2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds. 14 to 16 lbs. 3.05 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. 1.60 to 4.75

Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to — per yard

Damasks 0.12 to 0.14

Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —

Velvets—Black. 22 in. 0.19 to 0.40

Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18 per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 1.50 per yard

Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. 1.20 to 2.25

Long Ells—S. arlet 6.16 to 9.50 per piece

Camlets—Assorted 6.20 to 9.60

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches. Assorted 11.50 to 31.00

Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 8.50

Blankets—8 to 12 lb. 4.50 to 14.00 per pair

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod 4.50 to — per picul

Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.80 to —

Swedish Bar 6.50 to —

Small Round Rod 5.00 to —

Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 6.00 to —

Wire 15/25 10.00 to —

Old Wire Rope 2.00 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co and Hole Chop 9 00 to —

Australian 8.90 to —

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Composition Nails 65.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 42.00 to —

Tiles — to —

Tin 68.00 to —

Tin-Plates per box.

7.50 to —

per cwt. case

6.25 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver 245.00 to — per picul

Window Glass 5.10 to — per box

Kerosene oil 2.05 to — per 10-gal. case

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quite unable to keep pace with the current demand now, and yet the constant cry is for new markets! The chief feature of interest during the interval has been the revived enquiry for Szechuen, which has resulted in some fair settlements of heavy grey and white Shirtings. Singapore is also coming into the market again for the former, but our other dependencies are quiet, particularly Hientsin, the buyers for which are holding off, though it is difficult to see what they can expect to gain by it. Newchwang has filled her requirements for the present and has invested all her available funds at a very favourable rate of exchange. The Auctions have not shown any great amount of go, but clearances are satisfactory. There is some complaint of the dilatoriness of the Customs in publishing the Import cargoes just now, as it is contended that the estimates of the stocks at present are very misleading in consequence. The market for Yarn has quieted down after the free transactions reported last week, but there is really no change in quotations. The generally unexpected news of a shipment on the way of 19,299 bales for this market has naturally not tended to strengthen the position, though it is stated that about half is under contract recently made. Some large purchases of Cotton have put the price up again. It is nominally quoted Tls. 13.0, but it is doubtful if any more could be bought at that.

METALS, 9th June.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—In metals nothing much has been done of importance, though the native buyers appear to be responding a little to the market. They are not ordering much, which is due to their possession of large stocks, which they naturally desire first to dispose of. We are able to give the following transactions: 50 tons Old Round Iron, Large 1½ to 3 at 95/6d. c.i.f. & c., 100 tons London Horse-shoes at 90/00 c.i.f. & c., 1,500 cases Wire Nails at 10/00 c.i.f. & c., 1,000 cases Tin Plates at per box at Tls. 10. 1, spot.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG 23rd June.—The market has continued quiet, but rates have ruled steady and a fair business has been transacted during the week.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, with an improvement in the London rate to 260, have been in some demand and have changed hands at 300 per cent. prem. cash, at 308 and 309 for August, and at 312 for September, market closing steady at 310. Nationals have again changed hands at \$20½ and \$20 and continue in demand.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found buyers at \$60. Unions are still enquired for at the advanced rate of \$235 without bringing any but very small lots on the market. Cantons and the Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business. Straits are enquired for at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have ruled rather quieter with sellers at \$312½. Chinas have changed hands at \$8 and \$9.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$29½, \$29½, and \$29½, closing steady at \$29½. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at \$69½ and \$69½ and close steady to firm at last rate. Douglases remain at \$58½ with sellers and no sales. China Manilas have found buyers at quotations. China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated at \$173, \$172½, and \$172 for cash and at about equivalent rates forward, market closing steady to strong at \$173. Luxons continue neglected and without business, the rate having fallen to \$57.

MINING.—Pnnjoms have again advanced, to \$15.25, after fair sales at \$14, \$14½, \$14½, and \$15. News from the mine states that a lode 3 feet wide and assaying 1 oz. 14 dwts. has been found at Tangkong, the chief purchaser of the stock has been Japan, local business being confined to small transactions; market closes steady at \$15. Charbonnages have found buyers at \$250 and \$255 closing steady at the latter rate. Queens, Oliver, and Great Easterns continue more or less out of the market with only small unimportant sales at quotations. Raubs have remained quiet with small sales at \$59½. The temporary weakness appears to be attributable to heavy settlements in Singapore.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled firm with few shares obtainable; sales have been effected at 400, 401, and 402 for cash and at 402 for settlements; on time a few shares changed hands at 410 for August; at time of closing 412 could be obtained for August, but holders are asking two or three points higher. Kowloon Wharf shares have changed hands at \$88 and \$89 and close steady at \$90. Wanchai is unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have further improved to \$91 after sales at \$90. Hotels have found buyers at \$93, \$94, and \$94, and close firm at \$95 and at equivalent rates forward. West Points and Humphreys have changed hands in small lots at quotations. Kowloon Lands have advanced to \$29 without sales or sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have been in some demand and sales have been effected at \$14, \$14, \$14, and \$15. Green Islands have ruled quiet with sellers and no sales at \$28. Watsons have changed hands at \$13.75, Ices at \$11, and \$11.3, China Providents at \$9.70, and Fenwicks at \$43.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		(\$500 sellers)
Hongkong & Shanghai	1125	30 p. ct. res.
China & Japan, ordy.	24	1
Do. deferred	21	5 5s.
Nat'l Bank of China		
B. Shares	2	\$ 0.4, buyers
Foun. Shares	8	\$ 2.2, buyers
Hell's Asbestos E. A.	2	1
Campbell, Moore & Co.	11	\$10, ex div.
China Prov. L. & M.	10	\$ 7, sellers
China Sugar	100	\$ 7.3, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	11a. 100	1s. 70
International	1a. 100	1s. 65
Laou Kung Chow	11a. 100	1s. 75
Soychee	11a. 500	1s. 350
Yahloong	11a. 100	1s. 45
Hongkong	\$100	\$81.
Dairy Farm		\$5, sales & buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	22	\$42.
Green Island Cement	11	\$ 8, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	55	\$25 sales
Hongkong & C. Co.	21	\$ 2.4, buyers
Hongkong Electric	110	\$12.40, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	100	\$42.
Hongkong Hotel	15	\$95, buyers
Hongkong Ice	12	\$13, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & C.	15	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Rope	15	\$170, sales
H. & W. Dock	12	401
Insurance—		626.75, buyers
Canton	15	\$ 40, sellers
China Fire	12	\$9, buyers
China Traders	12	\$3, sales
Hongkong Fire		\$31.2, sales
North-China		1.95
Straits	22	\$5, buyer
Union	150	\$ 3, buyers
Yangtze	150	\$.06, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	15	\$91, buyers
Humphreys Estate	11	\$10.5
Kowloon Land & B.	13	\$16, buyers
West Point Building	15	\$12, sellers
Luzon Sugar	110	\$17, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	15	\$25, buyers
Gr. Esth. & Odonlar	5	\$34, sellers
Do. Preference	11	15 cts., sellers
Jebeu	2	\$10.75, buyers
Queens Mines Ltd.	25c.	30 cts.
Liver's Mines, A.	5	\$8, sales & seller
Do. B.	13	\$34, buyers
Panjom	50	\$15, buyers
Do. Preference	11	\$12, sellers
Rauks	15	\$5.2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	66	\$15.4
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	150	\$35, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	110	\$9, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	210	\$8, 0s., buyers
Do. Do.	25	\$3, 0s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	550	\$18, buyers
H. Canton and M.	115	\$29, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$69, buyers
Star Ferry	74	\$15, buyers
Tobran Planting Co.	15	\$5, sellers
Do.	18	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	12	\$1
Do.	110	\$ 0, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	137	\$39, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	110	\$14, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 19th June.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The market has not been very active this week. Dock and Wharf shares having been the chief stocks dealt in. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—No business has been reported on this market. Marine Insurance.—North Chi as were placed at Tls. 195. Straits shares are wanted in large lots. Fire Insurance.—Hongkong's changed hands at \$81. Chinas have been sold in Hongkong at \$86, and there are buyers. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. shares were placed at Tls. 514. There are sellers at Tls. 52 cash and Tls. 53 for the 31st August. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 52, and are in strong demand. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—S. C. Farnham & Co. shares were sold at Tls. 195. Shanghai Engineering Dock Preference shares changed hands at Tls. 106 cash and Tls. 107 for 30th June. and Ordinary shares Hongkong & Whampoa Dock shares were sold for delivery on 30th September at 410 per cent. premium. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 185 cash, Tls. 183 for 30th June, and Tls. 190 for 30th Sept. The closing cash rate is Tls. 185. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 85, at which shares are at Tls. 98 cash and Tls. 100 for 31st August. offering. Hongkong Land Investment shares are wanted at \$87. Humphreys Estate & Finance shares changed hands locally at \$10.20. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were sold at \$190, and are offering. Ewo Cotton Mill shares changed hands at 70. International Mill shares are offering at Tls. 65. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 35, and are offering. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 230, cum the interim dividend of 5 per cent payable on the 21st current. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were sold at Tls. 266, and are wanted. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 550. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 50. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$55, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$85.86. Both Llewellyn and Hall & Holtz shares are wanted. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment 5 per cent Debentures are sold at Tls. 100, and Perak Sugar 7 per cent Debentures at Tls. 100.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$500.00.
Bank of China and Japan, Ltd.—£10.0.
Do. ordinary.—£5.5.0.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$21.00.

COTTON MILLS.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—\$4.50.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 65.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, & C.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.00.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$87.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$625.00.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 195.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 180.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 185.00.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$140.00.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$5.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$62.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$315.00.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$4.00.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$220.
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ltd.—\$105.00.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$85.50.
Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.—\$10.20.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 87.00.

MINING.

Panjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$10.25.
Panjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$2.00.
Ragb Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$61.00.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 4.00.

SUGARS.

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.00.
Do. ordinary, 25 paid.—Tls. 30.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 140.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$58.00.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$29.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 51.50.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 152.50.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 230.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.00.

SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$174.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$58.10.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 52.50.
MISCELLANEOUS.
American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 57.00.

Central Stores, Ltd.—\$11.00.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 35.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$36.00.
Llewellyn & Co. J., Limited.—\$5.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 40.00.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.
Shanghai Gas Co.—\$190.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 62.50.
Shanghai Ice Cold Storage & Refrigeration Co., Ltd.—Tls. 35.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 50.00.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 50.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 266.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$14.00.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 23rd June.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.52

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.01

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 48
Credits, 60 days' sight 49

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147
Bank, on demand 148

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147
Bank, on demand 148

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 72
Private, 30 days' sight 72

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 4 1/2 % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 2 % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1 1/2 % pm.

SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate... 10.02

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael... 52.25

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd June.—Business coastwise still continues dull, with little enquiry for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong 19 cents per picul was paid last week, but to-day only 17 cents per picul is offered for medium sized carriers, prompt loading. To Philippines 1 port 30 cents per picul is offered. To 1 port N.C. Java 3 steamers have been chartered at 24 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, 2 steamers have been placed at 29 cents per picul, and more tonnage is wanted, but at a lower rate. Moji/Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton has been paid, Singapore, \$2.50. Ho gay/Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The British bark Rose proceeds to Puget Sound under orders from owners. A number of vessels have been taken to load hence for New York at about 17s 6d per ton of 40 cubic feet.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Japan (str.), Izion (str.), Tanaka (str.), Glenloch (str.), Hakata Maru (str.), Nubia (str.), Tonkin (str.).
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).
For MARSEILLE.—Tonkin (str.), Nordhavet (str.), Hakata Maru (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Ambria (str.), Silesia (str.), E. Rickmers (str.), Sarnia (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Belgian King (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Express of India (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—Victoria (str.).
For SEATTLE VIA KOBE.—Bijou Maru (str.).
For PORTLAND, O.—Columbia (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Macduff (str.), D. Rickmers (str.), Indrapura (str.), Yangtze (str.), Tames O Shanter, Governor Robie, Josephus romanoff James.
For AUSTRALIA.—Eastern (str.), Futami Maru (str.).
For GENOA VIA STRAITS, BOMBAY, &c.—Refugee Subatino (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

June—
17, Pronto, German str., from Amoy.
17, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
17, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
17, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
17, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
17, Salvadora, Amr. str., from Manila.
17, Inadsuma, Jap. torp. bt. destroyer, from London.

17, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
18, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, Lyetmoon, German str., from Canton.
18, Shansi, British str., from Swatow.
18, Phoenix, British sloop, from Weihaiwei.
19, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Sydney.
19, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
19, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
19, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
19, Paoting, British str., from Chinkiang.
19, Unity, Norwegian str., from Amoy.
19, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
19, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
19, Konigsberg, German str., from Shanghai.
20, Empress of India Brit. str., from Vancouver.
20, Loyal, German str., from Canton.
20, Gairloch, British str., from Foochow.
20, Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.
20, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
20, Nestor, British str., from Glasgow.
20, Fausang, British str., from Moji.
20, Nanyang, German str., from Amoy.
21, Chingtu, British str., from Foochow.
21, Braemar, British str., from London.
21, Mongkut, British str., from Newchwang.
21, Idomeneus, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
21, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
21, Sumidagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
21, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
21, Benavrich, British str., from London.
21, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
21, Haiching, British str., from Tamsui.
21, Glenartney, British str., from London.
21, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
21, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
21, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Swatow.
21, Nordhave, Danish str., from Moji.
22, Foochow, British str., from Manila.
22, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
22, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
22, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
22, Columbia, Amr. str., from Portland (Or).
22, Hangchow, British str., from Swatow.
22, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
22, Diomed, British str., from Liverpool.
22, Majdzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
22, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
22, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Saïda, Austrian cruiser, from Shanghai.
23, Nubia, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Chwnshan, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Hsiping, Chinese str., from Canton.
23, Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
23, Ellen Rickmers, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
23, Trigenia, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Telemachus, British str., from Penang.
23, Ballarat, British str., from Bombay.
23, Canton, British str., from Swatow.

DEPARTURES.

June—
17, Undaunted, British cr., for Weihaiwei.
17, Zafiro, U.S. des.-ves., for Manila.
17, Laos, French str., for Europe, &c.
17, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
17, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.
17, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
17, Amara, British str., for Hongay.
17, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
17, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
17, Taiyuan, British str., for Sydney.
17, Loyal, German str., for Canton.
17, Hsiping, Chinese str., for Canton.
17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17, Goodwin, British str., for Batavia.
17, Olympia, British str., for Tacoma.
17, Airlie, British str., for Sydney.
18, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
18, Hue, French str., for Hoihow.
18, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
18, Bamberg, German str., for Hamburg.
19, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
19, Shansi, British str., for Canton.

19, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
19, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
19, Paoting, British str., for Canton.
19, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
19, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.
19, Thyra, Norw. str., for San Diego.
20, Ingraban, German str., for Foochow.
20, Marie Jabsen, German str., for Saigon.
20, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
20, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
20, Unity, Norwegian str., for Samarang.
20, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
20, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
20, Machew, British str., for Hoihow.
20, Caylou, British str., for London.
20, Phoenix, British sloop, for Singapore.
21, Sachsen, German str., for Europe.
20, Konigsberg, German str., for Hamburg.
21, Inadsuma, Jap. torpedo boat destroyer, for Yokosuka.

21, Pronto, German str., for Tsintan.
21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
21, Breid, Norwegian str., for Sadang.
21, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
21, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
21, Yiksang, British str., for Swatow.
21, Mengkut, British str., for Canton.
21, Chingtu, British str., for Sydney.
22, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
22, China, German str., for Saigon.
22, Idomeneus, British str., for London.
22, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
22, Michael Jabsen, Ger. str., for Vladivostok.
22, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
22, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Salvadora, Amr. str., for Manila.
22, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
22, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
22, Sumidagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
22, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
22, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
23, Gairloch, British str., for Batavia.
23, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
23, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
23, Manmair, British str., for Singapore.
23, Radnorshire, British str., for P. Arthur.
23, Shansi, British str., for Hongay.
23, Braemar, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
23, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Foochow.
23, Taisang, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Colombo, Mr. A. Wong and infant, and Mr. A. Spagnolo; from Singapore, Messrs. Quah Soeh Nam, and Choo Choon, Mr. and Mrs. Feinstein, Hoomenian, J. Mackertoom; from Saigon, Mr. Ernest Casali; for Shanghai, from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Rosati, Mr. and Mrs. Longo, Mr. and Mrs. Molinari, Mr. Sussome; from Colombo, Messrs. De Melotto, Maijre, Peckatnoff, Oliphant and child, Mr. and Mrs. König Raffae, and Mr. Wissemberger; from Singapore, Messrs. Siva, E. and L. Starley, and E. Madge; for Nagasaki from Singapore, Mrs. Okaka; from Saigon, Mrs. Osakima; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Castelin de Mor-danes, and Mr. L. Izquierdo; from Singapore, Messrs. Vogel and J. W. Butterworth and 156 Chinese.

Per *Ceylon*, from Yokohama, &c., Mr. W. Ellis.

Per *Hohenzollern*, from Yokohama, &c., Prof. Dr. Florenz, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Mienor, Mrs. T. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kufferth and children.

Per *Empress of India*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Messrs. Hart Buck and R. A. Rutlan; from Yokohama, Miss Lay and Niece, Messrs. Bruhn, Count de Madroua, Messrs. C. Bosai, H. E. Green, J. Brown, and Mrs. Godfrey; from Kobe, Messrs. R. E. Kelly and A. Bohnsewicz; from Nagasaki, Mrs. W. G. Humphreys, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. G. Murray Bain, Miss Murray Bain, Mr. T. Jackson, Jr., Miss Jackson, and Miss B. Jackson; from Shanghai, Mr. R. B. Martin, Miss Aitkin, Mr. E. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach and maid, Messrs. G. H. Jo-hua, Elsasser, and Hjonsberg.

Per *Sachsen*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Hagge, C. Dahenberg, Fr. Reiber, Mrs. E. Beckhoff, Mrs. E. O. de Mangailard, Messrs. Hartmann and Wm. Shaw, and Miss Pasquiline Ramorini.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Lieut. O'Grille, Messrs. Gregory and Dawsonbhoy.

DEPARTED.

Per *Laos*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Rev. F. Lamosle, and Mr. S. Cotalani; for Singapore, Dr. H. Kempte, Messrs. H. A. Gwynne and F. P. Schall; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Pettibone, and Mr. B. Fuchsmann; for Bombay, Mr. H. J. Stalley; for Suez, Mr. and Mrs. A. Drusa; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wallace, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Godinez, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Padrinan, Mrs. Hopson, Rev. Bouladon, Messrs. de Toledo, S. Fantache, T. Monasterio, D. Martin, C. Rozas, and J. Munez; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. John Brumund, Mr. Tsang and child; from Yokohama, Messrs. Clouzet and Verons; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Ossi, Ofuku, Ogasa and Eakes; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. Tang Cheng Tuan; from Nagasaki, Miss Rito Hayasi; for Colombo, from Shanghai, Messrs. B. Hoffmann and Petit Bois, Mgr. Vie, R. P. Boscate, and R. P. Mengquist; from Yokohama, Mr. Panioff; from Kobe, Messrs. Schwob, Alir, and Trilonoff; for Bombay, from Yokohama, Mr. Nishimoki; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. P. Chavannes.

Per *Caledonien*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. P. Somerville, Large, A. Bicker, C. da Silva, M. S. Perry, Jean Hees, Mrs. F. X. Ozorio and children, Mrs. J. M. Ferreira and 3 children, Revs. J. Gonzalez and A. Gomes, for Kobe, Messrs. A. Kuhn and K. Matsumoto, for Yokohama, Mr. J. D. Smart.

Per *Taiyuan*, for Townsville, Mr. Lindsay Brown; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Benson, Misses A. and B. Benson, Messrs. P. G. R. Benson, W. B. Maddock, and P. A. Lamb; for Melbourne, Mr. and Mrs. T. Weatherston, Mr. Fred. Scarlett, jr.

Per *Olympia*, for Shanghai, Mr. A. J. Mackenzie, Capt. Hinsen; for San Francisco, Mr. J. O. McIntosh.

Per *Athenian*, for Kobe, Mr. W. L. Taylor; for Yokohama, Mr. H. Siade.

Per *Airlie*, for Australia, Mrs. Thomas, Messrs. C. Hedrick, T. Turnbull, J. Armstrong, W. W. Cox, and T. Black.

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